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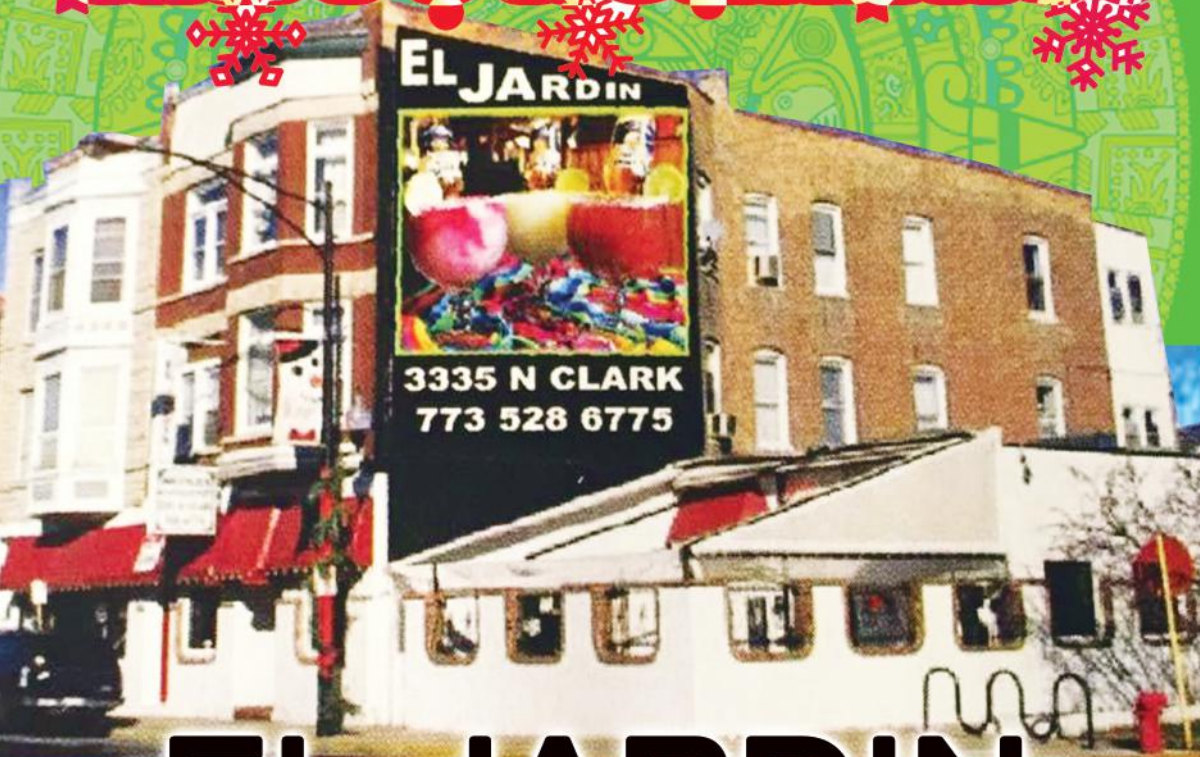
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# Why Should You Pay In Cash?

*This is why NOT using cash is hurting all of us!*

The banks are getting richer while you, I and small businesses are getting poorer.

Why should we pay cash everywhere we can with paper money instead of a credit card? Here's a run down.

Let's say I have a \$50 banknote in my pocket. I'm going to a restaurant and paying for dinner with it. The restaurant owner then uses the bill to pay for a service delivery. The delivery owner then uses the bill to pay one of his employees for reimbursement. The employee will then use the bill at the grocery store.

After an unlimited number of payments, it will still remain a \$50, which has fulfilled its purpose to everyone who used it for payment, and the bank has not made a penny from every cash payment transaction made.

However, if I come to a restaurant and pay by credit card, then the bank fees for my payment transaction charged to the restaurant are 3%, so around \$1.50 and so will the fee be \$1.50 for each further payment transaction to the restaurant owner, or payments of the owner of the delivery service, grocery store, or card payments for whatever.

Therefore, after 30 transactions, the initial \$50 will become only \$5 and the remaining \$45 became the property of the bank, thanks to all digital transactions and fees. Not to mention the fees that add up on your charge card account that YOU PAY in interest!



Remember, especially in this holiday season, small businesses need your help and this is one way to help ourselves too. Pull small amounts of cash out at a time and use that instead of credit, etc.

When this is put into perspective, imagine what each retailer is paying on a monthly basis in fees at 3% per transaction through their POS machine. **It can be hundreds and thousands over time, just going to corporate bank owners in profit.**

If they have, for example, \$50,000 in sales & 90% are by credit card, they are paying \$1500 in fees in ONE Month. **\$18,000 in a year! That comes out of their income every month.**

That would go a long way to helping that small business provide for its family, staff and to help keep their costs down, and that they won't have to increase their prices. A Win-Win for them and definitely a WIN for you too!



# HOLIDAY SCAM ALERT!

by Jack Santo

Have you ever Googled a company looking for their phone number for tech support? You'd think just because the phone number is listed at the top of a Google search page that it's legit, well guess again! Google doesn't weed out, or have any convenient way for us to report a scam from a search on Google. So the scam continues and because everyone is clicking on it, algorithms then list it at the top of the search! When calling, pay attention, if they sound like a foreign person trying to speak English, chances are they are NOT the help center for the company and they are running a scam! Do not give them your phone number or access to your computer!! Hang up immediately if you're being bated for more information than is necessary.

Also, if you need to call customer support to any retailer or company, make sure it's the real phone number that's listed on your bill or account. Remember, if you Google search for a customer service phone number, chances are that they are numbers to fake call centers pretending to be the company, or retailer in hopes to get your information.

Note that scammers will try to access your computer, so never ever give a customer support person or a help center a remote access to your computer! This is a RED Flag!

Scammers ask for money. Do not go out and buy them a gift card. Do not give them your credit card information or password.

Go directly to the companies website and make sure that you type it in correctly. One wrong letter can land you on a copy-cat scammers website and you'll think it's legit, but it's not! If you put your information in on the site, like login and password, now they will have all your information!

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Holiday scams like this are running rampant. In 2021, Americans lost over \$6.9 billion to fraudsters, including \$337 million in online shopping and non-delivery scams, according to the FBI.

Scammers take advantage of the holiday season to target you, whether you're shopping for gifts online, booking holiday travel, looking for seasonal work, or trying to donate to charities.

Here are a few of the most common scams during the holiday season, how you can avoid them, and what you can do to stay safe.

## How Do Some Holiday Scams Work?

Holiday scams capitalize on the increase in online shopping, travel, and charitable giving during the holiday season by trying to trick you into giving up money, gift cards, and your personal information.

Over 75% of Americans experienced at least one type of holiday scam last year.

Here are just a few of the common ways that scammers target you during the holidays:

Social media ads that lead you to fake online stores. Fraudsters use ads on social media to try to get you to go to fake stores that steal your money, credit card details, or personal information.

Send you fake missed delivery notification texts. Scammers send fake text messages claiming that a package you're waiting for has been delayed or that you need to pay a fee before it can be delivered. Many give you a link to click on. Do NOT click on text or email links. They can do serious damage your phone or computer, plus steal all your information.



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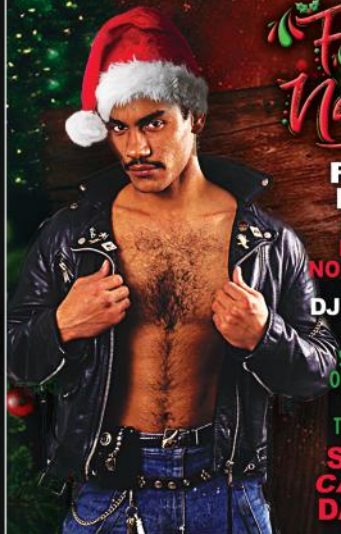
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# PRIDE JOURNEY

## Hawai'i (aka Hawaii)

By Joey Amato



In 1987, I visited the island of **Hawai'i** (*that's the way it's traditionally spelled*) for the very first time. My mother and I decided to join other family members on the vacation of a lifetime. Hawai'i had always been my mother's dream vacation, so she was

eager to go. Being seven years old at the time, I don't remember much about that trip with a few exceptions. One notably was having to wrap a hula skirt around my neck because I was too short for it to go around my waist.

36 years later, I finally had the opportunity to travel back to the island of Hawai'i. This time, I asked my boyfriend **Dylan** if he would like to join. As a travel journalist, I get to experience so many wonderful things but often I don't have anyone to share them with, so I was excited to share these moments with someone. It was Dylan's first time visiting the island of Hawai'i and his longest trip to date.

A bit tired from traveling nearly 12 hours, we began our journey in **Kailua-Kona at King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Resort**. The beachfront property is centrally located to almost all of Kona's beautiful attractions and was also home to the annual **Kona Pride Festival**, which was headlined this year by RuPaul's Drag Race stars Anetra and Jessica Wild.

After a quick power nap, we headed out for our first excursion, an evening swim with manta rays organized by **Anelakai Adventures**. A small group of 8 of us paddled about 10 minutes off the coast to an area known for its abundance of manta rays. Although sightings aren't guaranteed, the team had heard the chances of seeing some rays were pretty good that day. Sure enough, as we anchored down and jumped into the warm Hawai'i water, we looked down and saw over half a dozen manta rays swimming under our boat. For nearly an hour, we watched these gentle giants play in the water. What I enjoyed most about this tour was the fact that we had to paddle to the site rather than take a motorized boat, adding to the authentic experience.

This will definitely go on my top 10 list of most memorable experiences.

The next morning, we woke up early and drove to **Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site**. Pu'ukohola Heiau NHS is open all year round and shares the history of the beginning stages of the **Hawaiian Kingdom**. A socio-political hierarchy, deeply rooted in spiritual beliefs developed in Hawai'i. This rigidly ordered class system gave power to a small number of ali'i nui (*high chiefs*) who controlled different parts of an island, a whole island, or several islands. Alliances through bloodlines and marriage further complicated and enhanced the relationships among rival chiefs. The site became a National Historic Site in Aug. of 1972.

Back at the hotel, Kona Pride was in full swing. Dozens of vendors lined the lū'au grounds of our hotel, while entertainers performed on the main stage to a crowd of thousands. Although Kona Pride isn't one of the largest pride events I've attended, the setting is the most unique. Where else can you celebrate LGBTQ culture while standing on sacred grounds adjacent to the ocean? In addition to the festival itself, Kona Pride offers festivalgoers a variety of activities throughout the weekend including Pride Yoga, Drag Brunch, Tea Dance, and a Pride Pool Party.

If you are looking for a more relaxing experience, rent a kayak from **Kona Boys** and paddle around the ocean for a few hours. The company offers standard kayak rentals, guided tours, paddle boards, snorkeling equipment as well as surfboards if you are more adventurous.

To get a glimpse into Hawaiian (*and Polynesian*) cultures, I recommend getting tickets to the **Island Breeze Lū'au**. It is also conveniently located on the **King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Resort** grounds. The lū'au begins with the Royal Court arriving on stage and mo'olelo storytelling. Guests can feast on a variety of cuisine ranging from locally caught fish and poke to kālua pork. The court will teach guests the art of hula dancing before they begin their ceremonial dances from different parts of the world. The dinner culminates in a breathtaking traditional fire dance.

*Continued >>*

# PRIDE JOURNEY CONTINUED

## Hawai'i



Of course, one can't visit the island of Hawai'i without tasting some of their world-renowned coffee. We visited **Ueshima Coffee Company** where we were able to roast our own beans and create a unique coffee as well as learn the process creating the perfect roast. **Big Island Coffee Roasters in Hilo** offered us a wonderful 11-course coffee tasting of a wide variety of beverages including a delicious affogato that almost tasted like a creamsicle.

At Kona Pride, we met a local gay couple who owned a farm not too far from our hotel, so we decided to visit **Tony** and **Louie** the following afternoon. They graciously welcomed us into their home and toured us around their farm, where they not only grow coffee, but a variety of fruit as well as cacao.

On the way to Hilo, we visited **Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park**. The entry fee to the park is a bit steep at \$30, but it gives you access for a few days so be sure to keep your receipt. The park encompasses the summits of two of the world's most active volcanoes, **Kilauea** and **Maunaloa**, and is a designated **International Biosphere Reserve** and **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

For the next few hours, we explored Kilauea, hiking around the edge of the volcano which had been erupting a few days prior to our visit. For dinner that evening, we dined at **The Rim**, a wonderful restaurant overlooking the volcano. We shared a few appetizers including lobster crab cakes, edamame, and a tuna poke stack. Everything was delicious and the service was wonderful. I would definitely come back to this restaurant on my next visit.

For the next stop on our Hawai'i holiday, we drove to **Hilo**, located on the island's east coast. After checking in to **SCP Hilo**, we drove to the downtown area which contains dozens of quaint boutiques and restaurants. It was here that we had more encounters with the locals and embraced their *ohana* (*family*) mentality. Everyone was extremely friendly and welcoming to the point where Dylan and I were ready to relocate to Hilo. The **Hilo Airport** offers inter-island flights to **Honolulu International Airport** so travel to and from the city is pretty simple.

Hilo contains a few black sand beaches that are free and accessible to the public. As relaxing as Kona was, Hilo has an even more relaxed and holistic vibe. I felt like I was among the locals more so than in Kona.

The next morning we drove a few minutes to **Wailuku River State Park**, home to **Waiānuenuenu (Rainbow) Falls**, an 80 foot waterfall located just a few minutes outside of downtown Hilo. It was crazy to see a natural wonder located that close to the city. During our visit, we were just 2 of 3 people at the site. We passed a few more people on the trail leading to the top of the falls, but it was great to visit without any crowds. We then stopped by **Ken's House of Pancakes** for breakfast. The prices seemed a bit high at first, so we decided to split an omelet which came with a side of their famous pancakes. Luckily, we only ordered one item as the omelet was the largest I've ever seen. It was overflowing with a variety of vegetables and the pancakes came with three types of syrup: coconut, guava, and passion fruit. It was well worth the extra calories.

As we drove back to Kona, I thought about all the experiences we had on the trip. One Hawai'i experience that we had not seen yet was their picture-perfect postcard sunset. The sky that afternoon was pretty clear, and I thought to myself today will be the today and sure enough, it was. We pulled over to an overlook about 15-minutes north of Kona to a westward facing field of black volcanic rock that ran into the ocean and spent the next hour watching the sun sink over the horizon. It was the memory I was hoping to achieve before our departure from paradise.

*Enjoy the Journey!*



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# IN CONCERT: Atlanta Rhythm Section

by: **Jorge Suarez**

*Chicago DJ, Producer, Music Aficionado,  
Transit Authority, Photographer, Music Critic*

**Atlanta Rhythm Section (ARS)**, performed at the **Center Theatre at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts** in **Skokie**, last month.



First, let me compliment this venue for excellent and comfortable seating. The group originally formed in 1971 with the help of keyboardist and writer **Dean Daughtry**, who was originally part of **Roy Orbison's** band, the **Candyemen**. Sadly, Dean passed away earlier this year.



Dean co-wrote "So Into You" and "Imaginary Lover". **Rodney Justo** was the band's first vocalist (from Tampa), but left in 1972. Due to health issues, he would return, then leave, until 2011 when he made his comeback. Rodney Justo was also involved with **Roy Orbison** and **B.J. Thomas**, eventually moving to Atlanta and thus ARS was born.

Early years for this group was a struggle, until the late 70's when "A Rock and Roll Alternative" LP was released which included "So Into You".



The following year, the "Champagne Jam" LP was released which included "Imaginary Lover", and the group was catapulted into the Billboard charts. Some of the current members also include **Justin Senker** (since 1992) on bass, and **Steve Stone** (since 1986), guitar and back-up vocals, and **Rodger Stephan** on drums.

I enjoyed the show and had the opportunity to meet the group after the show. They are expected to return again to this area sometime in 2024.

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Healing Through the Holidays and Beyond

by: Dr. Charla Waxman *BS, MBA, EdD*  
*Director of Business Development Lake Behavioral Hospital*

When the Editor of boiMAGazine and I spoke about the article for the month, it was only 3 weeks post my spouse's death. He suggested dealing with grief and grieving during the holidays as the feature for the month. I agreed, and then, I couldn't do it. Each day I started to write it, I thought of a reason to put it off. Truth is, the finality of seeing the idea in writing and solidly connected to me, hurt indescribably. I guess I know intellectually that my husband that just passed away is gone forever, but my heart says I can still pick up the phone and tell him what has happened at work, in the news, or just gripe. Apparently, there are very few life circumstances that are as painfully devastating as the loss of a partner. I will miss him forever, but I know that all of the memories and experiences of our nearly 40-year marriage are going to be the foundation for my healing and finding a way to celebrate our time together. Sounds simple, but easy it's not.

Each day, waking to a quiet house without the usual banter makes me wonder how I will survive the day. I know that each day that I push myself to work or respond to friends and family who are calling will help me rebuild and find my new normal. Through various gifts of books on grief, I have also learned that the days that I come home and cry in the silence, or just wrap a blanket around myself and do nothing are equally healing. I know that powering through some days leaves me with some sense of accomplishment and other days I can barely breathe because the pain inside me is so intense.

It can zap your energy, leaving you a bit hopeless and helpless. I know people have done this. I have read the books. I have friends and family who have wrapped their arms around me and are not letting go. I can't say, "I Got This" entirely, but I am giving it all I have. Here are some things that I am learning about that will maybe will make a difference for you, to help you honor a memory, and validate your personal grieving process.

**Go Ahead and Hurt, Grieve and Grieve Some More.** Everyone grieves differently. If you have experienced the loss of a valued partner, friend, spouse, then he/she is gone. It's a pressure-filled time and you are full with the busy-ness business of death: paperwork, thank you notes, sending death certificates to various bill collector's or hospitals, and making calls to inform people of his/her passing. You may feel angry, afraid, confused, guilty and intimidated by all of it. Of course you do! It's overwhelming. For me, it is like losing a part of me. We went everywhere together. His last words to me at the hospital were, "I can't do this without you." I assured him he wouldn't have to, but now I know that I will have to do it without him. I am grieving a forever partnership and mourning is a difficult process. I know that I cannot heal without hurting. This is grief.

**You be YOU!** My spouse died from the chemo designed to extend his life. My experience and yours are going to be different and our ways of reacting to this time will be different as well. This is not a time for comparison. For some of us, faith may ease the pain, for others, not so much. Our culture may ritualize the process and many find comfort in just that.

*Continued >>*





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## HEALING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

Seriously, whatever it is that makes this time easier, live in it. My dog, Penny Rose, is my cuddle buddy and seems to always find a way to make me laugh at her antics, although sometimes I miss sharing those moments. Being me means taking care of and enjoying my pets. It also means reading a lot. Being me also means shamelessly calling people for support when the tears flow and feelings are intense. I'll be me, you be YOU, and don't be ashamed of it.

**Walk it Out, Talk it Out.** Keep moving and keep talking. Share how you are feeling and let people know what you have suffered. I have cried in every business in town as people who my husband loved to talk to have asked me where he is or how he is doing. Get outside, talk to people, let your feelings be known. People are kind. People will help you heal. We have all had grief. You are never really alone. Use your faith-based community, friends, family and even strangers.... talk, talk, talk. Yep, get out there and talk some more. Share memories and sadness. Share happy times and current pain. It's a way to move toward easier times, toward healing.

**It Comes Out of Nowhere.** I left a networking meeting where people were talking about the holidays and family. I got through it just fine. I got to my car and the next thing I knew I was wailing! It was out of nowhere. I was so unpredictably overwhelmed. The sadness was immense. All you can do when feelings hit you like this is to go with the flow. Let it happen, hurt and heal.

**Find Yourself an Elephant.** You have your ongoing list of people who you love and who love you. Use that list like you have never used it before! I have had

unexpected kindnesses from wonderful friends who are hanging on to me like an umbrella in the wind. They are just not going to let me turn inside out. They are bent on keeping me whole, healing and healthy. If another elephant is hurting, the female elephant will circle around the wounded elephant protecting in the fiercest of ways. Find your elephant. Let him/her watch out for you.

**Chop Wood and It Will Warm You Twice (unknown author)** Grief is like chopping wood. It is hard work that has to be done to make things more comfortable in the future. Building that fire with that newly chopped wood is the healing process. Success is bittersweet, but even little bits of healing is success.

**Be Your Own Best Friend!** People mean well, but say really stupid things. One well-meaning person told me that I needed to clean my husband's closet out immediately. Nope. I didn't NEED to do that. I didn't want to do that and I still don't. Another person told me to wear black to let people know I was grieving. What century is this? Be a friend to yourself and do what feels right, when it feels right. If you are not sure if you are making healthy decisions, please use a counselor to help you sort it all out.

**Plan a Celebration of Life.** Get some closure for you and provide some for friends and family as well. Find time to share funny, sweet, healing stories of a life well-lived. I am planning one in January. Here's to a new year, a new normal, and a host of great memories.

If you or a loved one are grieving and feel that some support is needed to find healing and health, please call on Lake Behavioral Hospital. One call to 855-990-1900 is what you may need at this time Call 24/7/365, they're ready to help.

# UNCENSORED



by: Screamin' Rachael

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

'Tis the season to be jolly, make merry, make mischief and magic! It's been a bit of a tough year for

many, due to stretching your dollar until it screams for mercy, inflation, crazy food prices, and more, and it's still rough to make ends meet. Yet, somehow, I feel hope is in the air, I believe things are changing, and hopefully 2024 will be the end of our COVID hangover. Being shut down for so long took its toll on everyone. So for me, I've slowly been shedding that baggage. What's been encouraging for me are my friends. When I'm down they give me words of encouragement and those words go a long way. No matter how down I am, I try to remember that supporting loved ones and even strangers can really lift my spirits. There are little gatherings for the holiday season, where you get together with friends you haven't seen in a while and hear kind words and interesting stories. Think about it, every day is a new day that positive change can happen. Don't give in to the holiday blues, and keep believing and hoping, remember miracles happen, so be ready when it's your turn!

Speaking about gatherings **Touché** made us all feel right at home, with the Industry Meet and Greet event that **Mike Macharello** hosted along with the GM **David Boyer**. It was a cold, dark and stormy night, traffic was bad, but despite the weather conditions, everyone made it out. The minute I walked in the door it was like visiting a place I'd been to many times, even though it was my first visit. The bar is legendary for the LBGQ+ community, and I can see why! From leather bears to just plain folks, I don't know how to best express the feeling that everyone just vibed together at this event. If you're looking for a great time don't miss the next Industry Party. In fact, don't miss this place no matter who you are, because the great management, affordable drinks, and comfortable ambience, it will make you feel good!

It was a trip back to the future for me at the Industry Mixer. We talked about what was up today and went all the way back to the **Space Place**. For those of you that don't know, and I assume that's many, it was what some people referred to as a punk warehouse, in the 80's. The place was located right at the corner of the now trendy spot **The Aviary**. You could practice and see great bands there. I played there a lot, with my band, **Screamin' Rachael & Remote** and performed mostly all original material. I cannot thank the boys in the band enough, **Al Salecker**, and **John LeQuesne**, who I keep in touch with on social media, and **Ross Anderson** our bass player who no one can seem to find. If you know him, have him contact me. You could enjoy such a cross section of groups, from **Black Flag** to **Naked Raygun**, **Bauhaus** and blues legend **Lefty Dizz**. Of course, there were local favorites like the **Ska** inspired group, **Heavy Manners**, featuring **Kate Fagan**, **Bohemia** and **Phil and the Blanks**. But none of us would have been there without the **Harrington Brothers**, Mike and Rich who ran the joint with love!

What took me back to those days was our VIP hosts that night. Old school Chicago music heads who were there way back then and they had great stories to tell. Also, we sampled the brand new Organic Authentic Tequila, with a former drummer back then and now a Freshie representative, **Matt Casey**, who introduced me to their other product, an Organic Tequila Seltzer called Freshie. Who knew you could get those? I really like them! Matt knew me as a rocker-chick, but these days I'm into House Music and managing my label TRAX Records. But I haven't changed, I'm still that crazy girl with a rocker heart. **Hank Zemola** was there as guest of honor, he's the CEO of **Special Events Management**, the company that stages street events in Chicago, like **Pride Fest** and **Market Days**, to name a few. Those days Hank ran the most legendary and insane clubs including **Tut's**, where all Chicago favorites played along with legends like **Ronnie Spector!** The three of us traded stories about Hank's clubs and other venues now gone...

*Continued >>*



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## >> *UNCENSORED Continued*

Of course, Mike Macherello, our host, talked about House Music and I remembered the **Let's Dance Record Pool**, an exclusive membership-club where the club DJs received advance copies of the latest vinyl records from the major and independent record companies. Mike ran the DJ Pool with his mom **Lori**, who we all loved and will always miss. Hey, we were into house and producing house music way before it was cool. Those days some people even said it wasn't music! But everyone had FUN! One of my friends **Liz**, who owns a salon in Lakepoint Tower "**Mar Beauty Lounge**, does great lashes was also in attendance for the Industry meet & greet. Liz will be working on a new marketing plan for her salon in 2024, so keep a look out for it. We need more of these "Industry Mixers", and more of Touché! Put down your phone and join the crew for some Ho-Ho-Hoing!

Reminiscing about what was, getting into the spirit of giving, believing in tomorrow, and living in gratitude today, is how I celebrate the holiday season.

Speaking of giving, check out the website [www.youthcommunicationchicago.org](http://www.youthcommunicationchicago.org) and make a donation. The organization has a legacy of mentoring youth and giving them a voice, since 1976. It was started by **Sister Ann Heinz** who was from "**The Little Sisters of the Poor**," their Order believed that the way to create lasting peace is to "overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, and hatred with love." Sadly she passed away in 1989. Then, on January 5th, 2022, they lost their loving, dedicated, President **John Owrey**, along with his 91-year old mother, special needs daughter and 18-year old family dog in a horrendous **River Grove** fire. Thanks to their new angel board member **Maria Teneff**, these visionaries' dreams will live on. They are working with well-known legendary Chicago artist **Arturo Barrera**, who is also a long time arts educator. The project is a special mural to inspire and mentor young students including those with special needs, from low-income families through the arts. I think the best thing about this program is that the students will decide on the positive message they wish to convey. They will be painting, and having after school sessions to educate, and make their

important, and we hope life changing decision by giving us their message. Given the state of youth in Chicago, **Youth Communication** is needed more than it ever has in its history! These kids are car-jacking and some even carrying guns. We met with **Lauren Lein** from **The Service Club of Chicago** about their special grants that cover materials and hardware. She was kind enough to explain the process and encourage us to apply.

Of course, a lot of you know I'm all about DJ culture and just when you need a holiday miracle it came with me partnering with **DJs4good**. This global movement was created by two French electronic music producers and DJ's: **Jacques Lavoisier** and **Greg Lion** who create music and perform together as 'Jacques & Gregory'. Guess what? Jacques & Gregory just joined TRAX Records, and you guys are the very first ones to hear about it as we have yet to break this news with the rest of the world. They are the first French artists to join TRAX Records. I'm so excited to be working with them on new music, but of course just as excited for us to join forces in having positive social impact in Chicago. Jacques & Gregory do amazing shows all around the world. With DJs4good, they donate at least 50% of their earnings to a charity. Their latest client was kind enough to green light helping Youth Communication! Though they are always traveling the world to make people dance in **Dubai, Beijing, Tokyo, Cannes, Berlin, Miami, Davos** or **Cannes**, they have a true passion for Chicago, the culture, and a massive love for its House Music. This is why they decided to join me to help with our arts outreach program. Chicago youth needs help badly and we want to be part of the solution!

No matter who you are and what ever religion you may be, to quote **Chuck Roberts** in the speech 'Can You Feel It'; "You may be black, you may be white, Jew or Gentile, it don't make a difference in our house and this is FRESH." That very speech, which was once underground on TRAX Records, has found its way to being featured in all of **Beyonce's** shows for her current tour. May 2024 bring you everything you've dreamed of and most of all to BRING YOU LOVE!



# DEATH TO THE RAVE SCENE! THE R.A.V.E ACT PART 4

Why even discuss the R.A.V.E. ACT? Since it's been passed into law, it's still illegal for venue owners, promoters and anyone wanting to attend a dance music event or so-called "rave party" to gather together! Anyone that has seen the movie *Footloose* knows that preventing people to dance to music is inherently wrong in a free country.

Remember from our last article on the subject that other controversial forms of musical expression were not snuffed out by censorship, there were never fines for playing jazz or rock, but then came Techno.

The electronic dance music genre that came to be known as techno had its roots in Disco, but there were also other influences, such as House Music, and Electronic Dance Music.

Techno music, and raves, grew in popularity. It was a, entirely new electronic sound, now called EDM (*electronic dance music*).

At Rave parties, it was come-as-you-are, and everyone was welcome, all races, classes, ages, and styles. No one was turned away, unless you came with a bad attitude!

Other notable differences were the ways in which the new generation was seeking altered states of consciousness. Alcohol, long associated with nightlife and dancing, was usually nowhere to be found. Maybe this was part of the problem. There's no proof but it's possible that the Liquor Industry lobbied for this bill to be passed, since it was in direct competition with their product.

Of course there were drugs being used at the old-school dance nightclubs, from cocaine to speed, barbiturates known as "yellow jackets," opiates, benzodiazepines, and of course good old alcohol.

So was the newest drug added to the mix of available inebriants was also present like MDA, way before MDMA aka ecstasy.

While it is well known that a few deaths occurred from MDMA, largely due to younger people dancing too vigorously without breaks and dehydrating themselves and subsequently raising their body temperatures through the roof, as well as from ingesting fake drugs that were not E, but rather poison, for the most part, users lived through the experience!.

Like all forms of new music that had come before, techno, and its many offshoots, was becoming socially accepted. But then came **Joe Biden**. A bill sponsored by then-Senator Joseph Biden, the man who's currently President of the United States, introduced the RAVE Act. It stood for **Reducing Americans' Vulnerability to Ecstasy Act**, and was passed on April 30, 2003.

The act was the death for electronic music and rave parties. With a stated purpose of being "*A bill to prohibit an individual from knowingly opening, maintaining, managing, controlling, renting, leasing, making available for use, or profiting from any place for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, or using any controlled substance, and for other purpose,*" the new Act made venue operators discriminate to anyone wanting to renting space for a rave party. Carrying a civil penalty of \$250,000, venue operators would be held responsible if anyone on the premises were found to be dealing drugs.

Police were able to arrest and charge music event promoters under this new law if glow sticks and bottled water were present. So what about our guaranteed right of Freedom of Assembly? Freedom of Expression? It's considered by some a total disregard for our Bill of Rights! This is why we've dedicated a 4 part series on this subject. Why should you care? Because what freedom will be outlawed next that will directly effect you? Who knows yet, but is it even possible to do something about it?

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# THE R.A.V.E ACT

In its introductory paragraph of Congressional findings, the initial form of the Act stated:

*"(1) Each year tens of thousands of young people are initiated into the drug culture at 'rave' parties or events (all-night, alcohol-free dance parties typically featuring loud, pounding dance music)."*

Never before had legislation placed an entire genre of music in the cross-hairs of law enforcement. Oddly enough, as ecstasy spread through our culture, the drug could be found at night clubs, rock concerts, and anywhere else people gathered to enjoy music or simply hang out. MDMA was certainly not exclusive to raves. In fact, there were many "straight edge" ravers, believe it or not, shunning the use of any mind alterants. This sub-group of party-goers were present in far greater numbers than anyone outside the rave scene might have thought. It wasn't true that "you have to be on drugs" to like techno.

So now a musical genre was now clearly the enemy. Is there pounding bass? Bottled water? Sorry; your venue falls under the purview of this act. Is there anyone present using drugs or selling them? Well then, you're about to receive a whopping \$250,000 fine!

Of course, this stopped the rave movement dead in its tracks. Although raves were generally safe, the new RAVE Act painted a far different picture. Were standard clubs still hot spots for drug abuse, places where you might find club-goers snorting lines of coke off a speaker or a scantily clad young woman's arm? Sure; but as there was no pounding techno or bottled water, no worries!

The Rave Act also stated, "some [rave promoters] even gone so far as to hire off-duty, uniformed police officers to patrol outside of the venue to give parents the "so-called" impression that the event is safe." This was contradictory. Were the authors of the bill suggesting that off-duty police officers did not add to the safety of a rave party? Such a notion is ridiculous on its face. Having cops there made the events safer, and discouraged open drug dealing and all other sorts of crimes.

Even more strange claims were found in the original version of the bill like, *"many rave promoters facilitate and profit from flagrant drug use at rave parties or events by selling over-priced bottles of water and charging entrance fees to 'chill-rooms' where users can cool down."* This was also stated in the RAVE Act. While overdoses were not always associated with raves. Young people were overdosing in their friend's homes, at concerts, in parks. Of course, some did also overdose at rave parties, but that was not the only place the drug was consumed. And the greatest risk was overheating and dehydration, not overdosing.

How many kids were ODing on alcohol and being brought to ERs across the country every weekend? The number is likely in the thousands. So of course, in 2003, the year this law was passed, raves became a thing of the past, for the most part. Promoters and venue owners did not want to receive fines. The RAVE Act was just way too broad,

Imagine if jazz clubs had become illegal, based on attendees at jazz clubs frequently wearing zoot suits, or if there were Art Deco paintings hanging in a jazz club? What if there had been a law stating that scat singing was outlawed, all because some jazz clubs were really speakeasies?

**Joe Biden** is responsible for attacking an art form. A new sub-culture. Electronic dance music, and raves, were not the enemy. Drugs were. But the law, as it was framed, targeted everyone involved: the musicians making the tracks, the DJs spinning the records, the promoters of the parties, the venue owners, and even the patrons. This was a ludicrous overstep of governmental power, an attempt to "keep kids safe" at the expense of our freedom of expression and assembly.

A petition is circulating to amend the RAVE Act, started by Dede Goldsmith, who lost her daughter Shelley to heat stroke. Shelley had been at an electronic dance music (EDM) concert in Washington, D.C., after consuming MDMA. Mrs. Goldsmith claims that the 2003 RAVE Act is actually killing kids, rather than saving lives. That's unless "we the people" do something about it!

# TECH TRENDS

by Jack Santo

For over the last two years we've been talking about AI. Now everyone is talking about it! So it's time for a new trend that will be the next big subject all over the news in the future.

## The Coming Of Quantum Computing!

In the realm of technology, quantum computing stands as an awe-inspiring frontier, an innovation that defies the limits of classical computing. As we venture into 2024 and beyond, the landscape of quantum computing and other technology trends promises to reshape industries, scientific exploration, and our understanding of the fundamental principles of computation.

In this article, we'll take a look on a captivating journey through the fascinating world of quantum computing, dissecting the latest developments, emerging trends, and the potential they hold for our future.

Amidst the excitement and fervor surrounding quantum computing, 2023 has been a pivotal year, signaling a shift in focus from sizeable processor benchmarks to the practical implementation of quantum technology.

The debate over quantum supremacy has yielded to a collective maturity in the industry, with a commitment to addressing the real-world challenges that lie ahead. As quantum computing

becomes increasingly international, here's what we can anticipate on the horizon.

IBM's innovative Heron processor, stands out as a beacon of progress. While they started out with a few qubits, 133 to be exact, compared to its predecessors, Heron emphasizes quality over quantity.

What's truly groundbreaking is Heron's ability to establish direct connections with other Heron processors. This shift marks a significant move from the era of standalone quantum chips to a "modular" quantum computing framework, one that strings multiple processors together.

The grand vision? Creating large-scale quantum computers, with potentially up to a million connected qubits.

The desire to shuttle qubits among processors is driving quantum communication into the spotlight. Quantum-friendly fiber-optic and microwave connections are expected to link chips like Heron, paving the way for distributed quantum computing.

To run useful, error-corrected quantum algorithms, such distributed systems may need as many as a million connected qubits. The power of distributed quantum computing could extend beyond a single room, connecting campuses, cities, or even transcending geographical boundaries.



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Quantum communications, capable of transferring coherent qubits over hundreds of kilometers, are central to this story.

The industry is evolving away from the concept of “noisy intermediate-scale quantum” (NISQ) computing, which once aimed to derive short-term benefits from quantum processors with limited qubits. Instead, the focus now lies on enhancing error correction.

Some companies are developing qubit ensembles specifically designed to correct errors in quantum operations. Google Quantum AI and Quantinuum have shown the promise of assembling error-correcting ensembles that outperform individual qubits.

Additionally, quantum computers are striving to become “fault tolerant” without incurring significant overhead. IBM is pioneering an approach that characterizes error-inducing noise and seeks to subtract it, akin to noise-canceling headphones.

This dynamic algorithm works from noise predictions, making error correction a more immediate reality.

As hardware advances, the quantum community is increasingly recognizing the importance of quantum software. Conventional cloud-accessible quantum computers rely on “circuit-based” programming, which lacks the flexibility for iterative processes commonly used in classical computing.



Some companies are now creating programming tools that enable more flexible computation routines. This shift opens new possibilities, and the field is expected to transition toward “hybrid” quantum computing that combines quantum computations with classical algorithms.

The key to harnessing more potent quantum computers may indeed lie in the software that powers them.

On the policy front, the quantum computing landscape is changing. Governments, including the U.S., are hinting at forthcoming trade restrictions surrounding quantum technologies. Ensuring a level playing field for the quantum computing industry is essential, given the global competition in this field.

In a remarkable show of progress, diverse nations are vying for prominence. China’s Baidu and Alibaba are pushing the envelope with their quantum research. Japan’s Fujitsu is set to launch its first home-grown quantum computer.

India is charting its own course, investing heavily in photonics technologies and “qudit” photonics computing, providing a fresh dimension to the quantum trend.

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