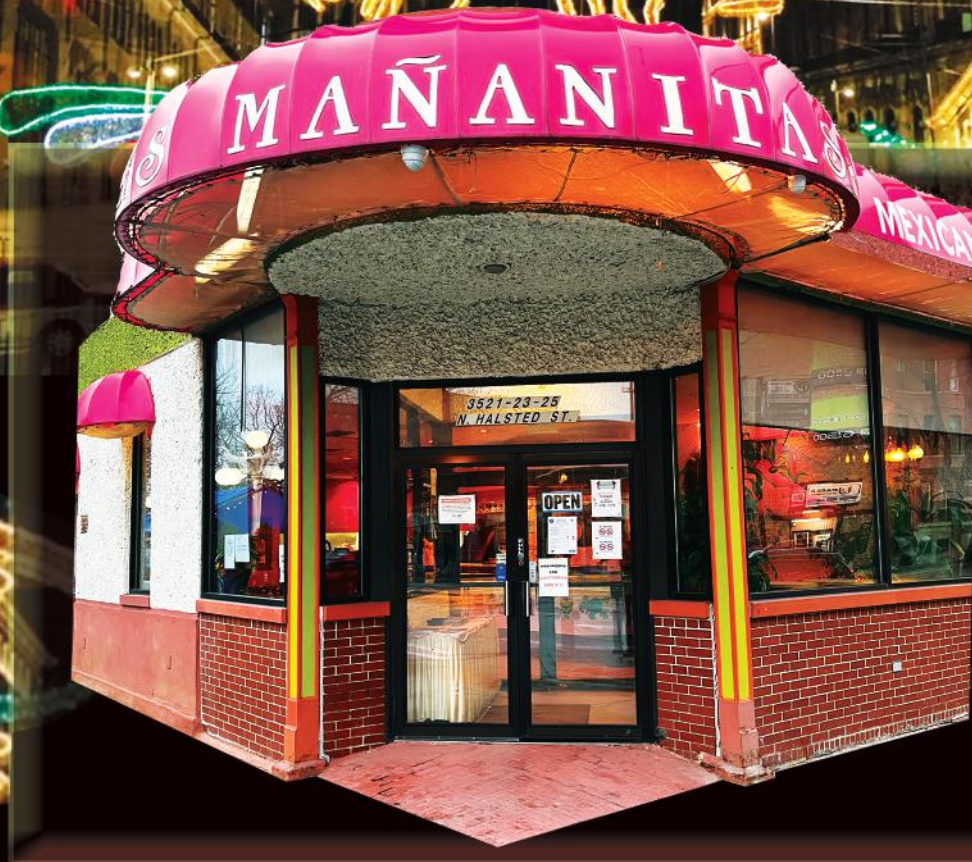


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Midwest Music Marketplace

In an era when nearly every song is available with the tap of a screen, it's refreshing to discover that record shows continue to thrive.

Music fans from every generation still gather to browse thousands of albums, share stories, and search for that elusive recording that's been missing from their collection for years. It's proof that the experience of collecting remains just as rewarding as the music itself.

For vinyl enthusiasts, music collectors, and anyone who still enjoys the thrill of flipping through crate after crate in search of that one elusive album, **Midwest Music Marketplace** has become much more than just another record show. It has grown into one of the Midwest's premier gathering places where buyers, sellers, and music lovers come together to celebrate the hobby we all love. Whether you're searching for a rare first pressing, an out-of-print CD, vintage concert memorabilia, or simply hoping to reconnect with an album that shaped your youth, every show offers the possibility of discovering something special.

One of my first stops whenever I attend a Midwest Music Marketplace show is **Bob Frasier's** booth. While he carries an impressive selection spanning virtually every genre, it's his extensive collection of hard-to-find 1980s dance, new wave, and alternative 12-inch singles that keeps drawing me back. For collectors like myself, these extended mixes and club releases represent an era when DJs and record stores helped define the soundtrack of a generation.



What I appreciate most about Bob isn't just the quality of his inventory, it's the care he puts into it. His records are meticulously maintained, making it easy to browse with confidence, knowing you're looking at vinyl that's been well preserved over the years. Just as importantly, he's approachable, knowledgeable, and always willing to work with customers on pricing. That's the kind of dealer collectors remember, and it's one of the reasons I make it a point to visit his table every time our paths cross at a record show.

What makes Midwest Music Marketplace stand out isn't simply the thousands of LPs, 45s, CDs, DVDs, cassettes, posters, T-shirts, and collectibles spread across dozens of dealer tables.

It's the atmosphere. These events are designed to bring the music community together, pairing record collecting with unique venues throughout **Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana,** and now **Iowa**.

From breweries and casinos to hotels and event centers, each location creates a different experience while maintaining the same . . .

>>> **MORE Out 'n About** >>>



>>> *Continued* >>>

... welcoming environment for seasoned collectors and newcomers alike.

As someone who has attended several of these events, I've come to realize they're about far more than buying records. They're about the conversations that begin over a favorite album, the friendships formed between collectors, and the excitement of introducing younger generations to physical music.

Every show reminds us that music was never meant to live only on a playlist, it's meant to be held, admired, discussed, and shared.

Behind Midwest Music Market Place is a simple philosophy: **Bring together passionate dealers, quality venues, and music fans under one roof.**

The result is a series of record shows that continues to grow throughout the Midwest, offering something for every budget and every musical taste.

From classic rock and heavy metal to soul, jazz, soundtracks, imports, and those obscure treasures that many of us never knew existed until years later.



Finally, One of the unexpected highlights of the day had nothing to do with vinyl. Since the event was held at an **American Legion Post**, I had the opportunity to sit down and spend some time talking with several veterans.

Between browsing records and sharing stories, it was a welcome reminder that music has a way of bringing people together from all walks of life. I truly enjoyed our conversations and hope our paths cross again at a future **Midwest Music Marketplace** event. To those veterans, thank you not only for the enjoyable company, but for your service to our country.



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SELF TRANSFORMATION HEALTH & WELLNESS

- *By: Dr. Charla Waxman*

Maybe it started with COVID, quite possibly the beginnings of isolation in the workplace began when social media started to have such an impact on the functioning and capability of our jobs. During COVID zoom meetings and other meeting platforms allowed us to work and never leave our homes.

Even before that the travel that occurred years ago as we jumped on planes or drove to our remote work locations was replaced with the same kind of meetings or even emails that focused on the major tasks at hand.

These online opportunities save lots of time and travel dollars, but is there a hidden negative for the employees? Many employees believe that they are feeling less connected to other employees and to customers. That old hand shake deal used to mean a lot. Now it doesn't exist!

Believe it or not feelings of isolation and disconnectedness is hurting our work places.

Some mental health professionals indicate that it is hurting the esprit de corps of organizations and that includes not just how people feel about their jobs, but how they feel about working with and helping each other be successful.

Isolation can occur with any one at anytime. If it continues for too long it can contribute to feelings of apathy, depression, sadness and anxiety.

Even use of substances leading to addiction or misuse of drugs and alcohol can be attributed to feeling constantly in the mode of disconnection.

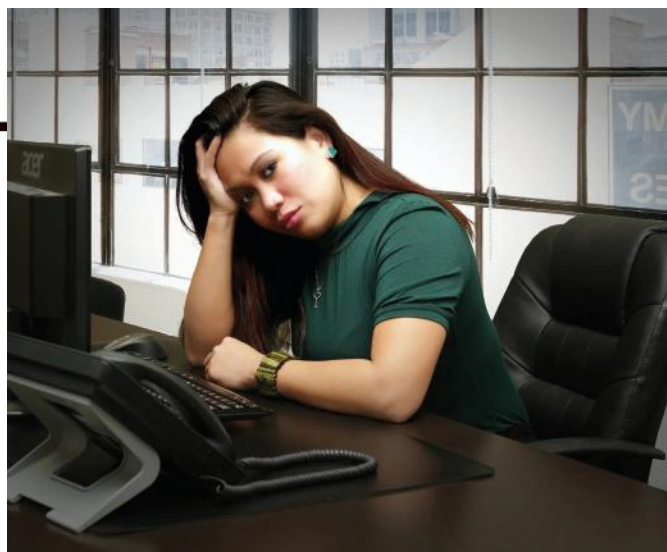
Not having workplace connections can mean that people are not learning from one another or caring about one another. Creativity is impacted. Employers need to consider, too, that not everyone learns by meeting online.

There are many ways to learn and for some, online work and meetings is not an engaging way to learn and grow, but an annoyance creating high job dissatisfaction. Some employees who really have a lot to contribute may opt to say nothing because their style for working and creating is not a match for telework.

The real thing about job isolation is it just catches up with you. The negative feelings and disinterest come upon you slowly and you may not even be able to recognize it for what it is before you find yourself hating your job. With this in mind, employers need to pay attention.

There was a time when people considered their workplace coworkers, and even bosses, as family, staying 50 years in a position before retiring.

Now 2-5 years is the norm; 5 years is an eternity in a job.



We blame this on generational interests and ideals, but could it be that the unrecognizable feelings of isolation may be what is driving our need to move from job to jobs so quickly? Perhaps, it's something to think about. We do know, overall, that workplace relationships, internal and external are important. Some workplaces may be missing the simple importance of people connecting to people.

Some things employers can do to impact workplace isolation can include:

In-house needs assessments that help identify teams of people that thrive on telework or remote connections.

In person team building... Even if it means some travel.

In-house newsletters that highlight teams or individuals for the purpose of connecting and rewarding.

Supervisor meetings with teams and individual check-ins to ensure people are feeling connected and invested.

Workplace isolation is real. Please stay aware and create crucial conversations about it in your workplace.

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PRIDE JOURNEY

Santa Maria Valley, California

By Joey Amato

Psst! Can you keep a secret? There's a hidden gem along California's Central Coast that delivers everything travelers love about the Golden State, award-winning wine, scenic beaches, incredible food, and laid-back charm, without the sky-high prices or overwhelming crowds. Nestled between Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria Valley is the kind of destination where LGBTQ+ travelers can truly unwind, connect, and explore at their own pace.

Whether you're planning a romantic same-sex couples' getaway, a fun trip with chosen family, or a solo recharge filled with wine and wellness, **Santa Maria Valley** offers a warm, welcoming vibe that feels refreshingly authentic.

Santa Maria Valley is one of the world's most dynamic wine-growing regions, producing complex and beautifully balanced wines thanks to its unique coastal climate. The region is especially celebrated for Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Syrah, though adventurous wine lovers will find plenty of varietals worth sipping.



With more than 30 tasting rooms and over a dozen wineries along the famous **Foxen Canyon Wine Trail**, you could easily spend an entire long weekend hopping between vineyards. Best of all, the atmosphere here is approachable and inclusive. Unlike some California wine regions that can feel exclusive or overly polished, Santa Maria Valley embraces a more relaxed experience where everyone is welcome exactly as they are.

That means no pressure to dress up, no impossible reservation lists, and no intimidating tasting rooms. Whether you arrive in designer resort wear or jeans and sneakers, you'll fit right in. Many wineries throughout the region proudly welcome LGBTQ+ travelers, making it easy to sip, socialize, and celebrate without pretension.

There's one thing Santa Maria Valley has been doing almost as long as winemaking, barbecue! Santa Maria Style barbecue is a beloved 150 year-old culinary tradition centered around tri-tip steak slow-cooked over native red oak and seasoned simply with salt, pepper, and garlic. Then pair it with pinto beans, fresh salsa, grilled bread slathered with butter, and a crisp green salad, and you've got a meal that feels both rustic and unforgettable.

Beyond barbecue, the area's growing culinary scene includes farm-to-table dining, cozy cafés, wine bars, and locally owned eateries perfect for date nights or casual dinners with friends. Travelers looking for relaxed dining without big city prices will appreciate the variety and welcoming atmosphere throughout the valley.

Santa Maria Valley makes an ideal home base for outdoor adventure. Located near some of California's most iconic coastal destinations, it also offers easy access to quieter stretches of shoreline where you can actually breathe, relax, and enjoy the scenery.

With 15 beaches spread across a 30-mile stretch of coastline, there's a perfect spot for every kind of traveler. Surf, hike, fish, explore dunes, ride off-road vehicles, or simply enjoy a sunset walk hand-in-hand with someone special. The region's uncrowded beaches provide a more peaceful alternative to California's busier coastal hotspots.

Nature lovers will find plenty to appreciate here. Santa Maria Valley sits at the intersection of Pacific coastline and oak woodland habitat, creating an ecosystem that attracts an impressive range of bird species.

Every December and January, bird enthusiasts gather for the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count, where recent counts have identified roughly 147 species. Whether you're a serious birder or simply enjoy quiet mornings in nature with binoculars and coffee, the region offers countless opportunities to reconnect with the outdoors.

You don't have to be a birdwatcher to appreciate Santa Maria Valley's natural beauty. Thanks to its mild coastal climate, the region offers hiking opportunities year-round for all experience levels. With 24 trails throughout the area, visitors can enjoy ocean views, wildflowers, wildlife encounters, and mountain biking adventures.

A few standouts include: The Oso Flaco Lake Trail, a gentle 1.7-mile walk through scenic dunes with a wheelchair-accessible overlook, is perfect for travelers seeking a relaxed outdoor experience. Los Flores Ranch Park spans 1,778 acres with 15 miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking.

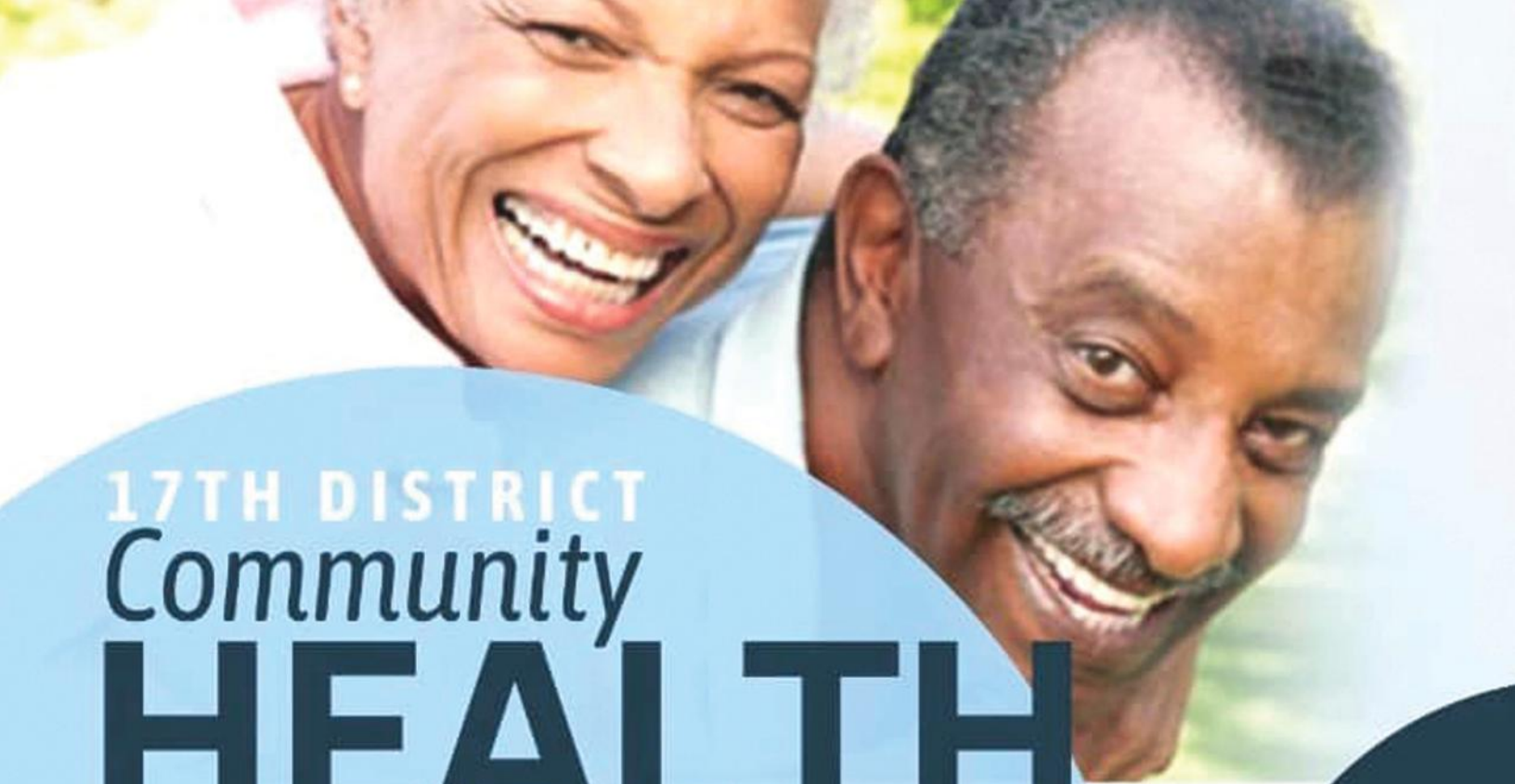
Guided nature walks throughout the year add an educational and community focused touch that LGBTQ+ travelers and families alike will appreciate.

Santa Maria Valley is also perfect for couples or solo travelers looking for some culture. The region provides meaningful cultural experiences that help visitors connect more deeply with the history and creativity of California's Central Coast. The **Santa Maria Museum of Flight** showcases aircraft, aviation artifacts, and stories dating back to the Wright Brothers, creating an inspiring look at the evolution of flight.

For travelers interested in Indigenous history and culture, the **Santa Ynez Chumash Museum and Cultural Center** offers a thoughtful and immersive experience honoring the people who have called this land home for thousands of years. LGBTQ families traveling with children, or adults who simply embrace their inner child, will enjoy the Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum, a lively space filled with interactive exhibits, crafts, bubbles, and imaginative play.

One of Santa Maria Valley's biggest perks is its affordability. Travelers can enjoy a stylish and comfortable California getaway without draining their vacation budget. One of my favorite places to stay is the **Wine Stone Inn**. Located in the heart of Old Town Orcutt, this intimate 12-room boutique hotel delivers upscale comfort with a warm neighborhood feel. Expect plush robes, locally made pastries, gourmet coffee, spa-inspired amenities, and easy access to nearby tasting rooms, breweries, and restaurants. It's an ideal option for couples looking for a romantic wine country escape.

Another very cool option is the historic **Santa Maria Inn**. A California landmark since 1917, this historic property combines old-world charm with modern hospitality. Palm-lined courtyards, cozy fireplaces, fountains, and inviting patios create a timeless atmosphere. Guests can enjoy California cuisine at **The Century Room** before sipping local wines or cocktails in the **Olde English Tap Room** or **The Barrel Room**.



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NAVIGATING THE COMPLEX CRISES OF MODERN MEDICINE

The modern medical industry is standing at a critical crossroads. It faces a complex web of interconnected crises that threaten its financial sustainability, the security of its data, and, most importantly, the delivery of patient care. From severe workforce shortages and soaring operational costs to escalating cybersecurity threats and the operational strain of an aging population, the challenges are as severe as they are widespread.

THE HUMAN TOLL **SYSTEMIC EXHAUSTION AND** **THE WORKFORCE CRISIS**

The human element of healthcare is under extreme distress, battered by systemic exhaustion that is reshaping the industry. Burnout has driven massive waves of early retirements and career changes among doctors and nurses, leading to what many call a clinician exodus.

This talent drain sets up alarming deficit projections. The industry expects a shortage of over 100,000 physicians by 2030, a gap that will heavily impact both primary and preventative care. Compounding this is a severe nursing shortage, which creates high patient-to-nurse ratios, elevates medical risks, and worsens an already stressful workplace environment. Instead of focusing on the art of medicine, clinicians find themselves bogged down by administrative burdens, spending countless hours on tedious paperwork and navigating complex electronic health record (EHR) documentation.

THE BOTTOM LINE **SKYROCKETING COSTS AND** **FINANCIAL PRESSURES**

Both hospital systems and everyday patients are struggling to maintain financial viability. Inflation, rising labor costs, and expensive specialty pharmacy drugs are squeezing hospital profit margins to the breaking point.

This financial strain trickles down directly to patient affordability. Roughly half of U.S. adults struggle to afford care, leading many to skip necessary medications or delay critical operations. Meanwhile, insurance companies are denying claims at higher rates, forcing providers to fight complex revenue cycle battles for reimbursement, further draining resources and driving up administrative costs.

THE DIGITAL FRONTLINE **CYBERSECURITY & DATA PRIVACY**

As healthcare digitizes, hospitals have become prime targets for highly organized cybercriminals. Ransomware exploits frequently lock down hospital networks, forcing facilities to divert emergency patients and delay critical surgeries while systems are offline.

The financial fallout is staggering. The average cost of a healthcare data breach sits at nearly \$10 million, driven by strict compliance penalties and massive remediation efforts. Furthermore, the proliferation of internet connected medical devices, from insulin pumps to heart monitors, creates endless entry points for hackers, turning life-saving equipment into dangerous network vulnerabilities.

A VICTIM OF ITS OWN SUCCESS **THE DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT**

Modern medicine is, in many ways, a victim of its own success. By keeping people alive longer, the system must now manage increasingly complex medical needs. We are approaching a "Silver Tsunami" by 2030, the baby boomer generation will be 65 or older, and increasing demands for geriatric care.

Coupled with this aging population is a massive chronic disease burden. The management of long-term conditions like diabetes, obesity, and heart failure now consumes the vast majority of healthcare spending, requiring continuous, resource-intensive care rather than episodic treatment.

THE PARADOX OF INNOVATION **FRAGMENTED TECHNOLOGY**

While technical innovation is moving at lightning speed, its practical implementation remains deeply flawed. Different software platforms and hospital networks still struggle with interoperability failures, unable to share patient health records smoothly.

Organizations also face immense pressure to adopt Generative AI. Yet, there remains a stark contrast between AI hype and reality, as systems struggle to transition from experimental pilots to secure, compliant, and genuinely useful tools. Additionally, fragmented monitoring systems have created a crisis of alarm fatigue, bombarding staff with endless digital alerts and unintentionally desensitizing nurses to critical patient declines.

WIDENING THE GAP **HEALTH INEQUITY AND ACCESS**

Socioeconomic and geographic factors continue to dictate the quality of care an individual receives. Rural hospitals are closing down at alarming rates, creating "medical deserts" and forcing remote populations to travel hours for specialized treatments.

While telehealth holds the promise of expanding reach, the reality of digital inclusion tells a different story. Low-income communities often lack the high-speed internet or digital literacy required to use these platforms, leaving the most vulnerable populations further behind in an increasingly digital world.



- Dr. Howard Fine



Ask Char Q & A

Q Dear Char, I recently ended a long-term relationship. How can I heal and move forward without feeling bitter or lonely?

From: Lonely in Lansing

A Dear Lonely in Lansing,

Thank you for writing in. Let's start with the reality of the situation: this is gonna hurt. This person has been with you for a long time, they know you well, and good or bad, you have established routines and ways of being a couple. 'Nuff said.

Now is your time. Now is "You" time. So let's focus on you. The first part of "you" right now is that you are hurting and need to find some closure. You may be feeling weak at heart and you need to get strong again: a stronger and better you! Here are some ways to begin structuring your new life:

Feel what you need to feel. Cry, feel down, or even feel angry. Remember, I said, "feel" what you need to feel. Don't act on these feelings by acting out aggressive thoughts and calling friends to reap judgement onto your ex. Sometimes friends love the drama and every discussion with them will be "ex" related and you find it hard to move on.

Set some parameters with your friends. You need to tell them when and if you want to talk about the relationship.

If writing is for you, journal. This can really help you sort things through.

Stay away from posting negatives about your ex on social media. There is no value in this and only prolongs and feeds adversity. This will create lots of comments you don't need to be reading right now. If you are going to post, how about something like: "Going through a rough patch. Not talking about things right now. I just need positive people!" Watch what happens.

See a counselor. Use that objectivity to sort things out. Be willing to hear feedback and maybe even get ready to see things from your ex's perspective. There is so much health in this.



Avoid stalking and lurking in your ex's social media or going to the old haunts. None of this will help you move forward. Avoid sending snail mail to this person, too.

Find a single person to be your sounding board. Tell him/her anything you want. This must be a person who has earned your care and trust. The info you share should go no farther than the moment.

Find social opportunities. Join a club. Get out there. I am not saying start dating, just find some people time!

All in all, this time is for you and the word, "acceptance" is the key. You are accepting that it is over. You are accepting that pain is a part of the process. You are accepting that there is a positive future available to you. You'll be more than just ok. Get ready for a new you, a new happier you.

Get out of their head! Notice how much time you spend wondering what they're doing, thinking, or feeling. When you catch yourself surfing the waves inside their head, come back to shore: What am I doing? What do I need? What do I want? You don't have to stop thinking about them, you just need to make more room for you.

Make space for all of it. You can miss them and still know it's over, feel jealous and know you don't want them back, love them and know you must let them go. You can know something and feel something completely different at the same time.

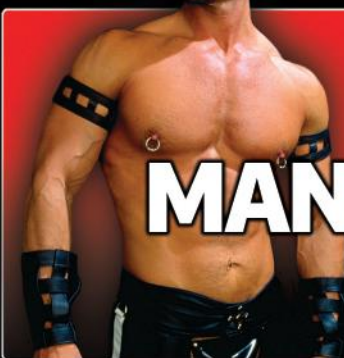
CONCLUSION

Living together after a breakup doesn't have to be messy. It may be awkward, painful, and confusing at times, but with boundaries and a little space, even under the same roof, you can learn how to live with each other without being a couple.

- 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.

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It has been one great, eventful summer! I've been enjoying Chicago's beautiful weather, meeting new friends and participating in some truly fantastic events. WOW - 2026 really seems to be my year!

Since this is the Labor Day issue, I started thinking about what Labor Day really means. It is more than the unofficial end of summer, one last cookout or one more chance to wear white! The holiday was created to honor working people - their dignity, their achievements and everything their labor contributes to American life

Like so many important stories, Labor Day has a powerful connection to **Chicago**. It became a federal holiday in 1894 during the historic **Pullman Strike**, when workers right here in our city were demanding to be heard.

That history means something to me because music is also labor. Behind every unforgettable performance, record and event are artists, musicians, DJs, producers, engineers, promoters, technicians and countless others whose work makes the magic possible.

This summer has given me plenty of reasons to celebrate that magic, and the people who create it.

The excitement began on July 29, when my very good friend, the legendary **Lady Bunny**, brought her outrageous new show,



"Bunny Butchers Broadway," to **City Winery Chicago**. Anyone who knows Bunny knows that she never simply walks onto a stage, she arrives!

Of course, Bunny called me out right from the stage, which made the evening even more special, and even more hilarious! I attended the show with a couple of friends who were thrilled to finally meet Lady Bunny in person.

After experiencing her fabulous, completely crazy show, they became even bigger superfans! It was an evening filled with music, comedy, friendship and Bunny's deliciously uncensored sense of humor.

Bunny's politics certainly do not please everyone, but I think she's hilarious! Sometimes I think I would rather get my news from **Michael Musto** and **Lady Bunny**, even though they sometimes have opposing views. At least they make it entertaining! Honestly, watching those two can be far more fun than turning on CNN or Fox News, and probably just as informative.

Then, on August 6, the excitement continued when the Recording Academy welcomed its members to "GRAMMY Legacies & Looking Ahead" at **Millennium Park**.

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

So, almost at the last minute, that is exactly what we decided to do!

>>> *Continued* >>>



This year, TRAX Records has two GRAMMY entries, and I could not be more excited about them.

One is a brand-new remix of “Addicted” by **Sadbxiii**, bringing a completely new energy to the track. The other is “I Love Paris,” my collaboration with **Jack X Gregory**, a project that has become very special to me.

Held outdoors from 5 to 9 PM, it was an evening of great music, meaningful connections and memorable moments with fellow Recording Academy members and music-industry friends.

The GRAMMY gathering turned out to be more than a wonderful summer party for me. There was something genuinely inspiring about being surrounded by so many people who have devoted their lives to music. We talked about where music has been, where it is going and, of course, the GRAMMYs. Somewhere in the middle of all that excitement, I started thinking: *Why not go for it again?*

One of the highlights of the evening was meeting members of **Women In Music**, and I’ve decided to join them. They seem terrific! The organization brings together women from throughout the music world, including entertainers, lawyers and professionals working in many different areas of the industry. I’m especially excited to become involved with the chapter right here in Chicago and to see where those new connections lead.

There is something wonderfully appropriate about making that decision at the end of this particular summer. TRAX has always been about taking chances, creating something new and refusing to wait for somebody else to tell us when it is our turn. House music itself was built by people who worked, experimented, created and believed in what they were doing, often long before the rest of the world caught up.

And isn’t that really a Labor Day story?
Labor isn’t only the job that pays the bills. For those of us who make music, art and culture, it is every late night in the studio, every rehearsal, every impossible deadline, every stage, every record and every crazy idea that somehow becomes real. Sometimes the work is exhausting. Sometimes it is exhilarating. And sometimes you find yourself standing in **Millennium Park** at a GRAMMY party and suddenly thinking, Yes, let’s do this again!

As I finish this column, I’m actually on my way to **Camp Wonkru**, so that adventure will have to wait for my next UNCENSORED. I have absolutely no idea what is going to happen yet, which, come to think of it, is usually when the best stories begin.

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



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ZUMBA 5PM-6PM

SALSA 6PM-7PM

TUESDAY

SR. GOLDEN
MOVES 9AM-10AM

WEIGHT
TRAINING 5PM-6PM

WEDNESDAY

WEIGHT 9AM-10AM
TRAINING

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

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So as summer 2026 starts winding down, I'm not quite ready to close the book on it. I'm celebrating the friends, the music, the laughter, the work and all the people behind the scenes who make our creative lives possible. And I'm especially excited that TRAX decided, at practically the eleventh hour, to throw our hat back into the GRAMMY ring.

TWO ENTRIES.

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And absolutely no intention of slowing down.

Happy Labor Day!

Love,
Screamin' Rachael

- Rachael Cain



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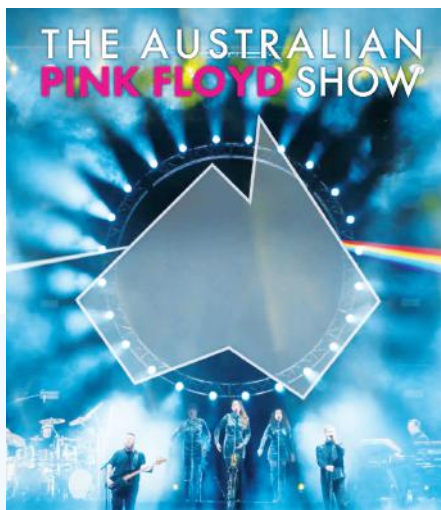
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In CONCERT

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by DJ Bill Hallquist

The Australian Pink Floyd Show

The Happiest Days of Our Live Greatest Hits '26 tour, on stage at the Kravis Center, West Palm Beach.

For nearly four decades, this internationally acclaimed production has taken the music of Pink Floyd around the world, recreating not only the songs but the sights, sounds and atmosphere that made a Pink Floyd concert such an extraordinary experience. On July 22, The Australian Pink Floyd Show brought its 2026 production, The Happiest Days of Our Lives, Greatest Hits '26, to the beautiful **Walt Disney Theater at Orlando's Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.** iMagazine concert contributor DJ **Bill Hallquist** was there, capturing the evening from an incredible vantage point near the stage. And judging from Bill's photographs and video, there was plenty to capture.

MORE THAN A TRIBUTE

The story of The Australian Pink Floyd Show stretches back to **Adelaide, Australia,**

in 1988, when a group of musicians came together with the idea of faithfully performing the music of Pink Floyd. What began on a relatively small scale eventually developed into an international touring production.



Over the years, the group has performed in more than 35 countries and sold millions of concert tickets. Perhaps the greatest endorsement came from Pink Floyd guitarist **David Gilmour**, who invited the group to perform at his 50th birthday celebration. Members of Pink Floyd and musicians associated with the original band have also shared the stage with them over the years.

Today, The Australian Pink Floyd Show has become known for going far beyond simply playing familiar songs.

The goal is to recreate the complete Pink Floyd concert experience, and the Orlando production demonstrated exactly what that means.

PINK FLOYD CATALOG JOURNEY

The evening opened with In the Flesh, immediately setting the stage for a show that would travel through several eras of Pink Floyd's history. From there came one of the band's most atmospheric compositions, Shine On You Crazy Diamond followed by The Division Bell selections, Take It Back, and What Do You Want From Me.

The first half continued with classics including Time, Breathe (Reprise), The Great Gig in the Sky, and Money. Then came one of the night's major theatrical sequences as the production moved into music from The Wall. The Happiest Days of Our Lives led into the unmistakable Another Brick in the Wall, and Goodbye Cruel World.

Bill's images from the evening show just how important the visual presentation is to this production. A massive circular screen dominated the stage while projections, animation, dramatic lighting and enormous inflatable characters transformed the theater around the musicians.

At times the stage was washed in deep reds and purples, then moments later exploded in brilliant white, blue and yellow lights. The musicians, backing vocalists and visual effects all became part of one carefully constructed presentation. This wasn't simply a collection of Pink Floyd songs, it was a show.



The second half reached even further into Pink Floyd history. See *Emily Play*, one of the band's earliest psychedelic recordings, was followed by the very different atmosphere of *Sheep*. The set then returned to *The Wall* with *Empty Spaces*, *Young Lust*, and *Hey You*. From there, the audience was treated to another succession of Pink Floyd favorites, including *Wish You Were Here*, *Learning to Fly*, and *On the Turning Away*. The set eventually moved into *One of These Days* before the pounding energy of *Run Like Hell* brought the main performance toward its conclusion. But there was still one song that virtually had to be played. For the encore, *The Australian Pink Floyd Show* returned with *Comfortably Numb* bringing the evening to an appropriately powerful finish.

THE SIGHTS AS WELL AS THE SOUNDS

Bill's photographs offer a particularly close look at the musicians and production. His camera caught guitarists under sweeping beams of light, the bassist and drummer surrounded by the enormous stage setup, a saxophonist framed by the band's trademark circular screen, and three backing vocalists standing beneath brilliant columns of light. Other images capture the sheer theatricality of



the show, including the oversized inflatable figures associated with the strange and sometimes unsettling visual world Pink Floyd created decades ago. And then there is **Bill's** photograph of the actual show setlist, a wonderful souvenir from an evening that covered an enormous amount of Pink Floyd history.



The music represented albums and eras stretching from the psychedelic beginnings of the band through *The Dark Side of the Moon*, *Wish You Were Here*, *Animals*, *The Wall*, *A Momentary Lapse of Reason* and *The Division Bell*. That breadth is part of what has allowed *The Australian Pink Floyd Show* to endure.

For longtime Pink Floyd fans, there are songs capable of immediately transporting them back decades. For younger audiences who never had the opportunity to see Pink Floyd perform, the production offers something else, an opportunity to experience on a grand scale, just why this music was created to be heard and seen live.

Nearly 40 years after a group of musicians in Adelaide first decided to play the music of Pink Floyd, *The Australian Pink Floyd Show* continues to keep that concert experience alive. And on this summer night in Orlando, the lights went down, the lasers came up, that unmistakable music filled the **Walt Disney Theater**, and Pink Floyd's extraordinary musical world came alive once again.

THE MUSICIANS BEHIND THE SHOW

Bringing Pink Floyd's music to life requires considerably more than a few guitars and a collection of familiar songs. The 2026 touring lineup of *The Australian Pink Floyd Show* brings together musicians from several countries, reflecting just how international the production has become. The lineup includes **David Domminney Fowler** on guitar and vocals, **Luc Ledy-Lepine** on guitar, **Ricky Howard** on bass and vocals, **Chris Barnes** on vocals, **Paul Bonney** on drums, **Alex Fran** on saxophone and keyboards as part of the touring production.

McBroom brings a particularly remarkable connection to the music being celebrated onstage. Long before joining *The Australian Pink Floyd Show*, she performed as a backing vocalist with Pink Floyd themselves, touring with the band during the late 1980s. She has now performed with *The Australian Pink Floyd Show* for more than 15 years. **Emily Lynn** and **Lara Smiles** have also been longtime members of the production, joining the show's vocal lineup in 2011. Together, the three singers play an important role in recreating the layered vocal arrangements that are such an essential part of Pink Floyd's music including the ...

>>> **MORE In Concert** >>>



>>> *Continued* >>>

...demanding vocal showcase of The Great Gig in the Sky.

THE TEACHER RETURNS

The character originated in the visual world created around Pink Floyd's 1979 album and subsequent stage production, representing the cruel and authoritarian schoolmaster remembered by the album's central character Pink. The exaggerated figure became part of the imagery surrounding The Happiest Days of Our Lives,

and Another Brick in the Wall. The Australian Pink Floyd Show recreates that theatrical tradition with its own enormous inflatable Teacher. During the 2026 production, the figure rises beside the stage as the show moves through the Wall sequence exactly the moment captured in Bill's photograph. And the Teacher isn't the production's only oversized visitor.

Over the years, The Australian Pink Floyd Show has incorporated several giant inflatables inspired by Pink Floyd's legendary stage productions, including a giant pig, while adding a Australian twist of its own with a huge pink kangaroo. It's another reminder that The Australian Pink Floyd Show isn't interested in merely playing Pink Floyd's songs, they're attempting to recreate the experience of seeing Pink Floyd.

Want more music, memories and concert experiences? Join us on Facebook at Out and About Chicago, where music fans share concert photos, vinyl finds, favorite artists and stories from yesterday and today. And be sure to stay tuned to next month's iMagazine, when In Concert returns with another look at the artists, venues and live music that keep us coming back for more.

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■ ■ ■ TODAY'S MARATHON TECH TRENDS

by Jack Sontos ■ ■ ■

TECHNOLOGY FACILITATES REAL TIME DATA AND MORE!

HEART, EXERCISE, RUNNERS TECH DEVICES LATEST TECH TRENDS FOR YOUR WORKOUT!

Before we get into the Tech-Trends of the modern-day marathon runner, it's good to know that these trends will apply to the here, and now!

Considering that thousands of runners will take to the streets of Chicago for upcoming 2027 events, like the annual **Shamrock Shuffle**. Every year the March tradition brings Chicagoans together to celebrate one of the Windy City's favorite holidays, with runners even preparing now for a 8K run, or 2-mile walk through downtown.

Ready, set, go for today's marathon technology trends, that can enhance races through advanced wearable sensors (GPS, heart rate), and AI-driven performance tracking, and specialized, energy-returning footwear.

For an example, wide-scale LED ribbon boards and kiosks at various mile markers provide continuous, real-time updates on leaders and



individual runners for the millions of fans on the course.

Technology facilitates real-time data analysis for both runners and spectators, improves safety through digital tracking, and enables virtual racing, making marathons more accessible, data-driven, and interactive.

Key ways technology plays a part in marathons includes advancements like Performance Tracking and Training. Where smartwatches and apps monitor real-time pace, distance, and heart rate.

>>> **MORE Tech Trends** >>>

... >>> MORE >>> ... TECH TRENDS

Adaptive training plans adjust workouts based on recovery data and fatigue levels, optimizing preparation. Also, **Advanced Footwear** brings us modern, lightweight shoes with specialized cushioning and carbon fiber plates improve running efficiency by, leading to faster times, particularly among elites.

There's Race Day Safety and Tracking behind the scenes, that can use RFID chips and GPS tracking enable organizers to monitor participant locations, ensuring safety and providing live, real-time results for spectators, along with AI and Data Analytics. Whereas AI optimizes race day logistics, such as predicting crowd flows and managing smart corrals. It is also used to analyze runner data for personalized performance insights and to automate photo tagging using facial recognition.

Carbon-fiber plate (CFP) shoes, such as



the **Nike Vaporfly** and **Adidas Adizero**, have become standard. These use responsive foams and plates to reduce energy expenditure by roughly 4%, effectively “shaving minutes” off finish times.

For those watching, technology now brings us **Enhanced Spectator Experience**, with Apps that offer live tracking of runners, interactive maps, and AR (Augmented Reality) features to view athlete statistics. If that's not enough, how about Virtual Racing? Digital platforms now allow participants to run remotely, using GPS to track their progress and share results, fostering global participation.

In 2026, technology is no longer just a luxury in marathons; it is the “brain” behind race-day logistics, athlete safety, and personalized performance. Modern races have shifted from reactive data collection to AI-driven predictive systems that adjust to a runner's needs in real time.

Organizers now use AI to assign start corrals dynamically based on real-time biometric and crowd density data, reducing early-race congestion and preventing “mismatched” pacing groups.

Cities like Chicago and London use “digital twins”, virtual 3D models of the course, to simulate weather, crowd flows, and emergency responses before the race even begins.

Wearable “bio-twin” patches can now stream a runner's vitals to medical teams. AI monitors these streams to identify signs of heat exhaustion or cardiac distress before a runner collapses, allowing for proactive intervention.

Behind the scenes, drones are increasingly used to shuttle emergency supplies to aid stations or help medical staff locate runners in distress in high-density areas.

At major marathons like NYC and Berlin, spectators can use AR glasses to view “heads-up” displays of their favorite runner's stats, current pace, and health markers as they pass by.



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