



PIONEERING SPIRITS

Haight Street Voice: Tell me the story behind this photo. What was Albert Hoffmann like?

Dr. David E. Smith: I had met Albert on some panels, and of course had read all of his books: *LSD, My Problem Child*, etc. I was asked to give a lecture in Switzerland, and a professor at Hoffmann La Roche who worked with Albert at Sandoz set up my meeting with him in 1982.

The professor drove us to Basel, showed us the famous bicycle path, it was like a pilgrimage: “This is where it happened. This was the lab. This is where he had the psychedelic experience with LSD.”

Then we went up to Albert’s house, and he and his wife served us tea. It was a very moving experience because our *Journal of Psychedelic Drugs* with our name on it — my



wife Millicent had co-edited an issue — was on Albert’s bookshelf. He complimented us on our work on advancing the issue of knowledge in the psychedelic area. It was a very cordial meeting.

He told us he regularly took psychedelics, and talked about his anthropological work. He felt that psychedelics allowed him to explore intergenerational issues, way back before the conscious memory. He had all these artifacts and was very much into reinterpreting these old archeological finds. He felt that the use of plant hallucinogens were a key factor in the creation of this art form. I remember he was particularly interested in the South American artifacts, which had such great impact on him.

-- con't on page 4





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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



It's late and I am writing this to you after a wild ride to meet deadline. I am exhausted. I am toast. I am bleary-eyed. Yet, I was able to pull another magazine out of a hat. Poof!

Words jumped off the page for this one, like little road signs saying I'm headed in the right direction. Concepts and colors landed organically, cheering me on.

I feel synchronicity in the air. Just when I think I have no idea what's going on or how anything will ever work out, things land where they need to. Seems to be happening quite a bit these days. Everything feels more connected and intertwined. As flowers to the sun, like pioneering spirits reaching for their highest potential, let's keep the magic blossoming ...

A beautiful Spring to all,

Linda Kelly, Editor-in-Chief



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DR. DAVE & ALBERT HOFFMANN

(continued from front cover)

HSV: What was Hoffmann's energy? He looks very healthy and fit.

DD: He lived to be a 102. [born: January 11, 1906; died: April 29, 2008]

HSV: What was his vibe?

DD: Very professional, very courteous. He was friendly, not stiff. Very warm. During the second psychedelic revolution, he had been criticized, but it

could not have been a nicer, more informative, positive interaction. We went out and took that photo of Millicent and my son Chris as well as the professor.

HSV: The beautiful part is that it's a family photo, with your wife and son!

Did you and Hoffmann have any conversations about taking psychedelics and what your

own personal experience was with hallucinogens?

DD: I had mentioned taking LSD and how that was a factor in having a vision for the clinic. Albert was very interested in that. We talked about life-changing spiritual experiences with LSD.

Albert and I had very nice correspondences after our visit. He sent me a wonderful letter, which

I have framed on my wall. It was such a positive and inspiring interaction.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on psychedelics. Email me, Linda Kelly, at haightstreetvoice@gmail.com. Meanwhile, here's an earlier video chat with Dr. Dave. Dig!



love



From right: Dr. David E. Smith, Albert Hoffmann, Millicent Smith, Hoffmann professor holding Dr. Dave's son.

REMEMBERING BILL GRAHAM, SF'S ROCK N ROLL LEGEND

"We used to say Bill Graham Presents (BGP) was a family, and it was true: a crazy mash-up, a kaleidoscopically dysfunctional family full of characters and personalities, black hats and white hats, and some of the best people I've ever known, led by the master, Mr. Bill Graham."

- Rita Gentry, BGP employee for 20 years
Haight Street Voice: Bill Graham, man, one heck of a pioneering spirit!

Rita Gentry: I really appreciate you giving me a voice to let people know about Mr. Bill Graham who was my guru, my everything. It's almost like Bill was guiding me this whole project. Never in my wildest dreams would I think Rita Gentry would be putting out a freakin' book to the world! When I stuck the book in an envelope and mailed it off to the Library of Congress, I said, "Oh my god, Bill! You are in the Library of Congress now!"

It was just "Whoa!" I wanted to party down! [laughter]

All these stories have been floating around forever. I hope that this is a book that people can time travel a little bit. Most people reading

it were at the shows, they experienced those things through a Bill Graham show. If you've ever gone to any other places where it wasn't a Bill Graham show, it's not the same, it really isn't!

Bill catered to the audience. That was the first thing. The artists were second. I mean, he's the one that brought medical to a rock and roll show.

HSV: Rock Med! Shoutout to Dr. Dave!

RG: Bill also wanted to expand the minds of concert goers through the music. The headliner would be whatever everybody wanted to see, but he would throw in Miles Davis or whoever to expand the universe of music to the people.

HSV: You worked for Bill for 20 years. Who's ever worked for Bill Graham that hasn't been yelled at? [laughter]

RG: I never really was. One time he did yell at me and then he brought me a gift the next day. I opened it up and it was a sewing kit saying, "Can we mend things? Sorry." He was a very

giving, kind man. It was the *best* place to work.

*Reading this book IS a trip through time.
Available on Amazon.*

*Follow the QR code and enjoy Rita and I
having a blast at our zoom hang!*



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Psychedelics
Conference
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psychedelics today



SETH FERRANTI

Outlaw Filmmaker, Author, Journalist



ACACEA LEWIS

Plant Medicine Alchemist and Mycologist



ROBIN CARHART-HARRIS

Professor of Neurology & Director of
Psychedelics Division (Neuroscape, UCSF)



JIM FADIMAN

Author, Researcher, and Father of
Microdosing



MOUNTAIN GIRL

Merry Prankster, Author, and Partner to
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SF HERITAGE

DOWNY STREET DREAM: MAGICAL HOME, LOVELY SOUL

Meet Loretta -- the vibrant activist, artist, and animal advocate we recently had the pleasure of getting to know here in the Haight. Ever-charmed by her home on Downey, I was touched by her thoughtful, fun spirit. Loretta came from the Bronx to SF in 1960 with her poet-artist husband -- the rest is her-story.

Haight Street Voice: What brought you to San Francisco?

Loretta Chardin: We lived in New York and my husband kept talking about San Francisco, San Francisco, San Francisco. In those days, where thou goest, I go. He wanted to come, so I came with him.

The first place we stayed in was the Swiss American Hotel on Broadway. It was pretty magical. I lived in the Bronx, so when I came out here I felt like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz going from Kansas to Oz.

I couldn't get over how incredibly beautiful and wonderful it was. I felt immediately at home. So many I've talked to had the same experience. Wherever they came from, it was like, "Ahhh ... [relaxed arms gesture] San Francisco..." ♥

HSV: Did you go to the Human Be-In?

LC: I was there.

HSV: Wow! How old were you?

LC: I guess I was maybe 30. It's interesting because

when I was 30 they would say "Don't trust anyone over 30." [laughter] So that was kind of funny!

HSV: Fast forward to 1977: How did you guys land this joint?

LC: We were really lucky. We came back after 5 years in Europe pretty broke. No place to live, no jobs, 2 kids, a large Airedale, and 2 cats.

[laughs]. First we stayed with these old Beatniks from England. He played the trumpet, worked for the *Examiner*. She was a housewife, they had 2 boys. I met them because one of my sons went to Sunset nursery school and her kid was there. One of the sons still owns it, an 11-room fantastic house in 1968 for \$42,000! [laughs]

So anyway, these friends drifted into real estate in the '60s and became very wealthy, owned a lot of property. We wanted to buy a house, we could afford to pay a mortgage. Everything was pretty low then. But

we didn't have a couple thousand dollars for a down payment. It took a few years, but then they found us this house. We were very lucky to get in here.

HSV: On that note, would you give us a tour, Loretta? Are you cool with that?

LC: Absolutely!

Y'all are in for a treat! Come on in and take a trip through Loretta's magical abode...

Follow the QR code!



PSYCHEDELIC RINGMASTER: JIM JENKINS

Had a chat recently with Jim Jenkins — producer of *The 2023 Bay Area Psychedelic Convention: Discovery Sessions* on April 18-19 at The Midway here in SF — eager to hear what they've got going on at this year's celebration of Bicycle Day and all-things psychedelic.

Haight Street Voice: If you had a loudspeaker and could speak to everybody in the Haight, SF, and beyond, what would you tell them about what the Discovery Sessions are all about?

Jim Jenkins: Come on down and find out what's going on today, right now. This is not stuff that you're going to find out about 6 months or a year from now. We've got the medical community here, we've got the UCSF folks coming down — doctors, nurses. We also have the artists. It's "Culture, Policy & Science." What you're going to find out is that they're all so intertwined.



When we talk about art, we also have somebody on a panel perhaps who's an artist but also an integrative therapist with psychedelics. We love the psychedelic renaissance that's going on, and we don't want people to miss out on

that because it's fun, but it's also educational. It builds a fire in peoples' bellies to get involved and to make this next thing, this renaissance — whatever it is — make it really count. I think it's going to take a few more bounces, especially with the federal government and a few others, to get us where we need to be, where people can get the help they need, or just to enjoy some molecules that are not addictive, that can help them see the world a little differently.

We've got Mountain Girl, Mark McCloud, Jim McConchie, Andrew Penn, so many others — all these legendary minds in science, culture, and policy.

There's a lot of serious content, but we also have a heck of a lot of fun. It's not something you'd see downtown at the Sheridan or whatever. They call the Midway a nightclub venue. It has the benefit of an art gallery, dance spaces, an open patio with a café — it's got good vibes. I said this the other day and I keep saying it: This is not your father's conference!

To learn more about the Discovery Sessions: www.discoverycon-sf.org or follow the QR code!



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PEACE, LOVE AND DISTRACTIONS: 47 YEARS IN THE HAIGHT

by Kenna M. Lindsay

In a candid and vulnerable interview, Jim Siegel, owner of Distractions, tells his story.

A Daly City kid uprooted and moved east in childhood, Jim shares about the abuses he faced as a young gay man in early-1970s Philadelphia. After leaving home at 16, he made his way to the Haight-Ashbury Switchboard, the computer of the hippies, where he found a community, built a life, and learned many lessons. Jim's store, Distractions, has outfitted countless social and cultural movements in its time: from the birth of the P.L.U.R. (Peace Love Unity Respect) rave era, to the heights of Burning Man and festival culture, and even through the lows of the first dot com downturn and covid, Jim has stood witness to (and created) San Francisco's colorful history.

Jim: During the summer of Love, my father used to take us to see the hippies. I fell in love with 'em. After leaving home, I got adopted by the Haight Ashbury Switchboard — it was like the computer for the hippie movement. 24 hours a day, you could call anytime. We'd let people crash there. We had a free store. We published a survival guide. We listed every

place that had free food, shelter, legal help, anything you could want. I started the White Rabbit (now Distractions) with two other partners. If I owned the building, I would keep it open and work for the rest of my life. I love it. It's my social life. But I don't know how anybody's making a profit on Haight Street anymore.



Jim Siegel at his shop, Distractions on Haight, 2023

High rents, e-commerce, covid, homelessness, shoplifting are the major reasons I'm closing [after Halloween.] I'll start the going-out-of-business sale in October.

Kenna: How can people carry forward the spirit of the '60s?

J: Volunteer. Be kind. Leave this world a better place. Be grateful. Whatever you do, benefit others around you by your actions. Treat the Earth with respect. Treat people with respect. That's the heart of the hippie movement. Be inclusive, be respectful, be giving. Smile.

K: Thank you so much, Jim. Is there anything else you want to share?

J: I'm certainly gonna miss y'all. You'll have to come by Gus Parklet and look for me on the weekends. I'd love to see everybody still. You're all in my heart.

Jim shares his story and sentiments to Kenna in this full-length video at Distractions.



STREET PERSON SPOTLIGHT: GYPSY

Welcome to the paradoxical art realms of the ever-salvaging artist G7psy (Dennis Packet).

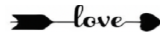
I delve into a variety of mediums, assemblage, collage, kit bashing, geometrical, abstract, pour, etc, furthermore, and so on. Hail from upstate NY but been in the Bay Area long enough for the greenish horns to call me OG chuckle. Maybe in another decade ...

Inspiration comes in many forms to help shape and motivate, music, friends, film, other artists, directors like Floyd, Zappa(s), Shpongler, dabs, Skinny Puppy, SalviaDroid, Bjork x Akira, Swoon, Bill Hicks, Tincup, Mother Love Bone, Jungle SKY Records, Stanley Kubrick, Pogo, Dr. Hunter S. Thompson, MF Doom, Keith Giffen, Mr Wiggles, Derrick Jensen, blacklight posters ... oh the colors ... they were an introduction for sure.



We love ya, Gypsy! Always dig seein' you out there. People -- check out Gypsy's art!!!!

@dvckfrvgz



Art has really helped me stay on track and focused. Something positive to pour my energy into has had a part of my maturing process for surely.

Psychedelics also played a big part in getting my art rolling, just about anything u can imagine. When I closed my eyes in my late twenties I had fractals running CONSTANTLY ... So I dug up one of my buddy's brother's old sketchbooks and got down ... !!!

Art is just one of those glues that keep us together, I believe.

Give thanks.
Many blessings.



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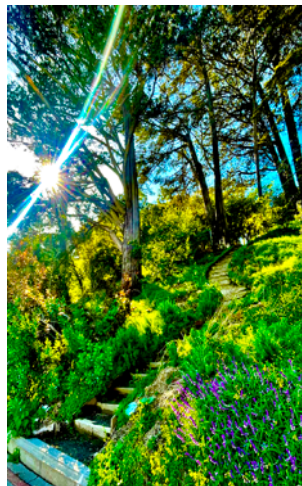
Haight-Ashbury Holistic Astrology

by Michael Sollazzo



These astrological readings use 1967's Human Be-In as the birth moment of the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood and are applicable to anyone matching those good-neighborly vibes. :-)

As we've mentioned before, Uranus is nearing the end of your 12th House and will be transiting your Ascendant for many months, so you'll have plenty of opportunity to reinvent which side of yourself you present to the world. It could even be a side of you that you haven't discovered, yet.



In addition to all of this, Mars will transit your natal Jupiter in the second half of May at the cusp of Cancer and Leo (towards the end of your 3rd House). This could be a time to get active with your friends and expand your circles, maybe even from your own backyards.

However you continue to explore this year, I hope you do so with adventure in your heart.

In spirit, Michael

Hello, Haight-Ashbury! Spring has sprung! Do you sense the new growth and opportunities?

With our current theme of Pioneering Spirits, we are looking at what helps you to broaden your horizons, venture into the unknown, and discover hidden insights.

Much of this energy is focused in your 12th House for the next few months, with Mercury visiting Aries and Taurus from late-March until early-June. This could be an opportunity to explore your unconscious through lively discussions with others (or possibly with your favorite tarot deck), or maybe even to really check in with yourself during your exercise or yoga practice. What new spaces do you discover within?

If you would like to schedule an astrology reading or spiritual counseling, please email me at hello@michaelsollazzo.com



SPORTS DESK

by
Cynthia Johnston



SMUGGLER'S BLUES

Marijuana is one of the most important medical discoveries of our time. We have many distinguished scientists to thank for that discovery, as well as the activists who fought to legalize medical marijuana. But we should also thank the smugglers. Surprisingly, one of the smugglers also turns out to be the most distinguished cannabis scientist of all.

Dr. Raphael Mechoulam, who passed away on March 9 at 92, was the undisputed father of cannabis research.

Before discovering the Endocannabinoid System, the largest neurotransmitter system in the body, or cannabinoids like THC and CBD, or finding that they can help relieve pain and nausea, control seizures and shrink tumors, Dr. Mechoulam began his career sitting on a bus in Israel with 5 pounds of smuggled Lebanese hashish on his lap. Within minutes, people around him began asking the ever-popular question, what's that smell?

*"You see it in the headlines, you hear it every day
They say they're gonna stop it, but it doesn't go away ...
It's a losing proposition, but one you can't refuse
It's the politics of contraband, it's the smuggler's blues."*

— Glenn Lewis Frey, Jack Tempchin

Luckily, he got away with it. At the time he didn't know he was committing a crime. Neither did the policeman who gave him the hash. Nor did the Director of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, who referred him to his old army buddy at the police station.

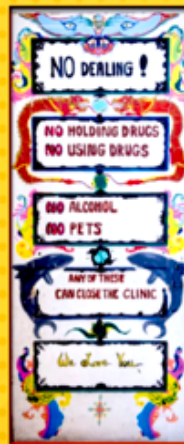
They immediately straightened things out and from then on, over a nice cup of coffee, Dr. Mechoulam applied for a permit from the Ministry of Health to score hash from the cops.

It's the politics of contraband. And it's definitely the smuggler's blues, because the hashish in Israeli police custody had been tossed over a border wall by Lebanese smugglers. And so it came to pass that the time-honored tradition of smuggling pot begat one of the most important medical discoveries of our time.

Check out Cynthia's badass website:
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