



## Conjuring for a Cure

Are you ready for another issue of the Quarterly Shakedown? Well, speaking of shakedowns, the 2026 Conjuring will not be at the Canyon Country University Center after all. As we did our walk through, we were adding up the fees to get an estimate of what it would cost us. When we left, we had a number that we felt we could live with. We were excited to announce the change of venue, and we were looking forward to finalizing the paperwork. When the actual quote came down, it was 4 times the cost we were told, including a \$2000 fee to have somebody there from the facility. This was omitted from the walk-through. Then there was the matter of \$100 per hour for security was doubled to \$200 per hour. I'm sure the additional \$3000 added to the quote was an unintentional error, but it definitely priced us out of the game.

The board is committed to making The Conjuring accessible to everyone. We just aren't willing to double the price of tickets to the show in order to cover the inflated price of the venue.

What are we going to do, you may ask? The City of Santa Clarita has a space that will accommodate all of our needs for a fraction of the price we were quoted from the University Center, and we have secured the location for Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>. It's called the Centre located on Center Point drive. Our insurance has been purchased, we have acquired our security guard, Jason renewed his bartending certification, and 4 magicians have committed (still looking for 1 more). In short, the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Conjuring for a Cure is well on its way. If you would like to volunteer for The Conjuring, would like information on group rates, or wish to be an event sponsor, please contact David at 818 201-4941.

## How's David doing?

It's been just over a year since surgery number 1, and just shy of a year for surgery number 2. Living with a deep brain stimulator (DBS) has definitely improved my quality of life. There are still good days and bad days but overall, even the worst days are manageable. I'm making changes to my medications and looking for the ever-allusive combination to get maximum effectiveness.



I'm looking forward to the World Parkinson's Congress coming up in May, where I will attend as a guest of Boston Scientific. I'm advocating for patients considering DBS surgery and sharing my story. It is estimated that 80% of patients who meet the eligibility for DBS don't take advantage of the technology. I'm hopeful that sharing my success with the procedure might inspire others to take advantage of this life-changing procedure.

There are inherent risks with this being brain surgery and all. I do happen to be inclined to believe the benefits outweigh the risks. Of course, all I can do is share my experience and let others decide for themselves. Either way, I find it to be quite rewarding to share and to be a part of their decision.

## What's New With Parkinson's Research?

New hope for slowing Parkinson's disease

ULSA, Okla. -

About 90,000 people in the United States are expected to be diagnosed with Parkinson's disease this year, according to researchers.

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological disorder that affects movement and can cause



tremors, stiffness, and problems with balance and coordination.

Historically, treatment has focused on managing symptoms, primarily through medications that replace or mimic dopamine — a brain chemical that helps regulate movement. Now, scientists say new breakthroughs may help slow the progression of the disease.

### **Deep brain stimulation may slow early Parkinson's progression**

One of the most studied advances involves deep brain stimulation, or DBS. The procedure involves implanting a small medical device in the brain that sends electrical pulses to areas responsible for movement control.

Dr. David Charles, a neurologist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, is studying how DBS affects patients in the earliest stages of Parkinson's disease.

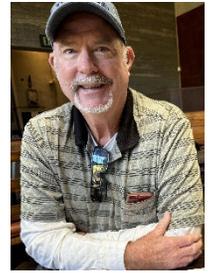
During the procedure, surgeons implant two thin electrodes — about the thickness of angel hair pasta — on each side of the brain. The electrodes connect to a stimulator device placed in the chest, with wires running under the skin through the neck.

Recent study found that DBS may do more than control symptoms. Researchers reported that about one-third of patients who received DBS in the early stages experienced no progression of motor symptoms over a two-year period. In Parkinson's disease, motor symptoms are typically expected to worsen over time.

New parkinson's treatments may slow disease progression. Newson6.com. (2026, February 14). <https://www.newson6.com/medical-minute/new-parkinsons-treatments-may-slow-disease-progression>

### **Kevin's Korner – Thoughts From the VP's Desk**

*Views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of SMM.*



#### **Multitasking, myth or reality?**

As my esteemed friend David Rabotnick once said, *"multitasking is not humanly possible."* Let's start there.

I've always marveled at how mothers can seemingly feed a baby, cook a meal, vacuum the rug and add any other chore of your choice simultaneously. Meanwhile men, the perceived Neanderthal dullards of the species, can barely perform one function at a time.

This is where I, at the risk of alienating every female reader of this opinion piece, dispel the "woman as multitasking expert" theory. A few months ago my wife and I met another married couple for a wonderful evening out to dinner. Call them "Jim" and "Janet." The topic of "watcha watchin'" came up. A lively discussion ensued but the conversation took a turn when Janet mentioned how annoying it is that Jim constantly interrupts the program with some factoid about one of the actors or where the scene on screen at that moment was filmed. To which my wife exclaimed *"Kevin does that too! It is so annoying."* Their consensus was not being able to concentrate on the show while being man-splained to.

Whoa ladies, hold the phone! Are you not the gender capable of changing a diaper while mowing the lawn and hanging up the laundry (dating myself with that reference — you youngsters can ask your parents)? How then can you not watch a TV show and hear a brief, albeit poignant and fascinating, factoid about how Jimmy Lipper played Clive Schmenkman's



brother in the BBC production of *From Here to Eternity*? Multitasking myth debunked! At the very least it proves men are actually **more** adept at multitasking!

Now, dear wife, please finish ironing my shirts while cooking our 5-course dinner and waxing the floor! Much love and respect...

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