

We were aware of the last pandemic—the flu pandemic of 1918—and a lot of us found that level of history repeating itself almost exactly a century later to be very eerie and haunting. Many Gay folks who experienced the AIDS epidemic felt like their own history was being repeated but on a massive scale. When compared to the last pandemic though (and even just 40 years after the AIDS epidemic), we've advanced so much in technology and it's really showed. At the very beginning of the year, I decided to go back to school after a ten-year absence. I thought with a pandemic that it'd no longer be a possibility. It mostly wasn't in 1918.

But with the power of advanced technology, myself and thousands of others were able to attend school via virtual learning. (In fact, this entry is due to an assignment for my Religion 101 class!). More people than ever were on social media. Virtual concerts starring famous singers were had, and after a while drive-in concerts were attended too. By technology, a pandemic wasn't stopping all consumerism either; many small online businesses began producing handmade facemasks, and not just any facemasks but fashionable facemasks of all designs, like mine with studded spikes.

A couple months after lock down, George Floyd was murdered by a cop. The recall for social justice has been mounting for years. A pandemic wasn't going to be enough to keep communities back from protesting. Facemasks are already worn during protests facing police to protect from toxic fumes and from being identified and charged later for civil disobedience; the added benefit of protecting oneself and each other from an airborne virus was satisfying enough to protest for days while wearing facemasks. It was a difficult moment though for those who wanted to join the fight for George Floyd's justice and all that of Black and Brown people in America but couldn't risk infection and illness.

Many kinds of protests have taken place throughout this pandemic, such as protests against a recent ban on abortion in Texas as well as against vaccine mandates for public workers by anti-vaxxers. Vaccinations have been released and we're still experiencing a transitional period out months later. The drag from the minority anti-vaxxers has slowed the process. Many felt that their religious rights were being infringed on with mandatory quarantine by the government's abuse of power—churchgoers who vocalized their right to attend mass, even amid a global pandemic having killed thousands by then. Still, others went the virtual route to attend religious ceremony.

With a new decade here, 2020 was the year everyone was hoping would be the beginning of great change both in private life and the public sphere. But for most people, it started out feeling like all our lives were halted. After the internal panic settled down across the country, there was this “pause to life” we called it, like the world was holding its breath not knowing what would or even should come next. With vaccines now having rolled out, a new inhale is being drawn, and we're getting ready to take that first step. The Roarin' Twenties of the 20th century was a burst in humanity creativity? Will we too have our own advanced Roaring Twenties?