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by Nate Daniels, editor

Some of these January ski weekends are upon us now, however, they are worth including because they are annual events. Who knows, you may want to plan now for 2025!

### Aspen Gay Ski Week, Colorado, USA January 13 thru 21st, 2024

Experience the glitz and glamour of Aspen during Aspen Gay Ski Week in January. This iconic event attracts a high-energy crowd from around the world, eager to enjoy Aspen's legendary slopes and world-class après-ski scene. Think designer ski gear on immaculately groomed runs, followed by champagne toasts in luxurious lodges and trendy nightclubs. [www.GaySkiWeek.com](http://www.GaySkiWeek.com)

### Winter Rendezvous, Vermont, USA January 17th thru 21 2024

This is Winter Rendezvous annual celebration of inclusive winter fun is where Mount Mansfield and Spruce Peak transform into a playground for skiers and snowboarders of all levels, united by a love of adventure and acceptance. Winter Rendezvous is more than just carving fresh tracks. It's a tapestry of exhilarating winter sports, cozy après-ski gatherings, and themed parties. Imagine swapping stories over steaming mugs of hot cocoa, dancing the night away at glittering drag brunches, or watching the sunset paint the mountains rainbow at a bonfire overlooking the valley. The spirit of connection thrives in every cozy chalet. [www.WinterRendezvous.com](http://www.WinterRendezvous.com)

### Winter Pride Whistler, Canada January 21st thru 28th, 2024

Whistler Blackcomb ski resort is transforms into a winter wonderland of inclusivity during Winter Pride Whistler. This annual celebration boasts exhilarating skiing and snowboarding alongside a kaleidoscope of social events, from cocktail receptions and drag brunches to dazzling dance parties and movie nights. Whether you're a seasoned skier or a winter sports newbie, you'll find a welcoming community ready to share the slopes and the après-ski fun. [www.WhistlerPride.com](http://www.WhistlerPride.com)



### Arosa Gay Ski Week, Switzerland January 20th thru January 27th, 2024

Nestled amidst the breathtaking Swiss Alps, Arosa Gay Ski Week explodes with rainbow-hued revelry every January with skiers and snowboarders from around the globe. Since 2005, this legendary event has been a beacon of acceptance, where everyone's welcome to attend regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It's a testament to the festival's commitment to inclusivity and acceptance. The party scene during Arosa Gay Ski Week is unbeatable. Each night, different venues come to life with electrifying music, dazzling performances, and an enthusiastic crowd ready to dance the night away. It's a week where friendships blossom like alpine wildflowers, and the spirit of unity soars under the starlit sky. [www.ArosaGaySkiweek.com](http://www.ArosaGaySkiweek.com)

Craving a winter wonderland escape that celebrates individuality and inclusivity?

## TRAVEL FEATURE SKI WEEKENDS 2024 EVENTS

Escape the ordinary slopes and join the vibrant community at these alternative ski weekends and events, where everyone's welcome to carve fresh tracks and forge unforgettable memories.

### Rainbow Ski Weekend, Urabandai, Japan February 9th to 12th 2024

The magic of Rainbow Ski Weekend in Urabandai 2024 on the Japanese slopes is haven for skiers and snowboarders seeking an unforgettable winter getaway. The alpine village transforms into a tapestry of inclusive revelry, where exhilarating descents seamlessly blend with cozy après-ski gatherings and lively parties. Experience the warmth of the local community, share stories and new experiences over steaming cups of sake. [www.En.UrabandaiRainbow.com](http://www.En.UrabandaiRainbow.com)

### Telluride Gay Ski Week, Colorado February 24th thru March 2nd 2024

Since 2002, Telluride Gay Ski Week in the San Juan Mountains has become the Southwest's most welcoming winter retreat. The week-long celebration of inclusivity features tons of activities. The town embraces and welcomes visitors from all walks of life with our signature flair and mountain charm. Located just steps away from activities like ice skating, snowshoeing, sleigh rides, shopping, spa treatments and yoga. Telluride has something for everyone. They also serve up everything from snowshoeing and nordic skiing to sleigh rides and fat tire bike tours. [www.TellurideGaySki.com](http://www.TellurideGaySki.com)

# SKI SKIING EVENTS 2024

Tom Whitman's Elevation events are some of the most attended ski weekends that are right here in the U.S.

## **Elevation Utah Gay Ski Week, Park City, USA** **February 28th thru March 8th, 2024**

Next to Aspen, the USA has more ski areas to offer. For example, the Ski Area Park City, Deer Valley in Utah with its three ski areas Park City, Deer Valley, and The Canyons all together form about 250 km Ski & Snowboard runs up to an altitude of 3.050 meters.

Elevation Utah Gay Ski Week is taking over Park City with a complete program of events in a world-class ski resort. The long weekend in the mountains of Utah is a fun time for new and old friends and the community to come together, with over 1,000 likeminded enthusiasts from around the globe gather for a week of exhilarating slopes, vibrant après-ski parties, and an unforgettable sense of community.

Imagine carving fresh tracks down Park City's legendary powder under the winter sun, followed by lively gatherings at The Canyons Village Resort or Cabin Nightclub, where DJ beats and dazzling drag performances keep the energy high. Whether you're a seasoned skier hitting the black diamonds or a beginner taking your first tentative turns, Elevation Utah Gay Ski Week welcomes everyone with open arms and plenty of opportunities to connect. So strap in, embrace the rainbow spirit, and get ready to paint the slopes with memories that will last a lifetime! [www.UtahGaySkiWeek.com](http://www.UtahGaySkiWeek.com)



## **Elevation Mammoth Gay Ski Week, California, USA** **March 13 thru 17th, 2024**

Picture yourself carving fresh tracks through Mammoth Mountain's legendary powder, the sun glinting off the Sierra Nevada peaks, surrounded by a vibrant community of fellow ski adventurers. That's the magic of Elevation Mammoth Gay Ski Week.

The Mammoth Ski Area is the origin of the Elevation Ski Week brand. For 16 years, California's best ski area Mammoth Mountain has been the home of the Mammoth Gay Ski Week presented by Tom Whitman. South of Yosemite National Park and North of Sierra National Forest, Mammoth Gay Ski Week takes place by the Mammoth Lakes, not far from the Mono Lake.

This iconic event attracts over 2,500 skiers and snowboarders from around the globe for a week of exhilarating winter sports, night time events with renowned DJs and themed parties, and a truly inclusive atmosphere. Whether you're a seasoned pro tackling Cornice Bowl or a first-timer exploring the beginner slopes, you'll find welcoming energy and friendly faces on every run. After hitting the slopes, you can unwind at Shelter Distilling or The Village at Mammoth. So dust off your skis, pack your pride, and get ready for an unforgettable week of celebration and connection. [www.MammothGaySkiWeek.com](http://www.MammothGaySkiWeek.com)



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**Both European Snow Pride and European Gay Ski Week celebrate LGBTQ+ communities in wintry settings and are at the same time, but there are a few differences to consider:**



There's a lot to do during the European ski week in France, let's take a look.

### European Snow Pride, Espace Killy, France

**March 16th thru 23rd, 2024**

European Snow Pride is held in different European locations annually, typically in March. Past locations include Tignes, France, and Serre Chevalier, France. Known for its vibrant parades, themed parties, live music, and diverse range of activities, catering to various interests within the LGBTQ+ community. The week is packed with events, from drag brunches and pool parties to movie nights and live music performances, and of course time on the slopes. The costs can vary depending on the package and chosen activities, but generally more affordable than European Gay Ski Week due to its wider range of accommodation and options.

[www.EuropeanSnowPride.com](http://www.EuropeanSnowPride.com)

### European Gay Ski Week, Val Thorens, France

**March 16th thru 23rd, 2024**

This event centers specifically on skiing and snowboarding, with après-ski parties and social events often geared towards skiers and snowboarders. Held in various European ski resorts throughout the winter season, with different start and end dates depending on the specific location. Popular destinations include Saas-Fee, Switzerland, and Sölden, Austria. Often has a more sporty and social atmosphere, with a focus on skiing, snowboarding, and après-ski gatherings. The tone can vary depending on the specific resort and its clientele. European Gay Ski Week can be more expensive due to the focus on premium ski resorts and potentially higher accommodation costs that's expected during peak season.

[www.EuropeanGaySkiWeek.com](http://www.EuropeanGaySkiWeek.com)

Ultimately, the best choice for you depends on your priorities and preferences. If you're seeking a celebratory and diverse winter experience with various activities, European Snow Pride might be ideal. If your passion lies in skiing and snowboarding with a like-minded community, European Gay Ski Week could be the perfect fit for you.

EUROPEAN  
GAY SKI  
WEEK

16 - 23 MARCH 2024

[www.europeangayskiweek.com](http://www.europeangayskiweek.com)



# SKI SKIING EVENTS 2024

## Winter Pride Sölden, Austria

March 16th thru 23rd 2024

The number one Ski Nation in Europe, Austria is hosting the Sölden Gay Snow Happening in one of the most famous ski areas at Ötztaler Alpen. Since 1998, the Austrian LGBTQ+ community is celebrating 145 km ski slopes. The ski area Sölden is offering a snow guarantee and a lively Après-Ski activity up to an altitude of 3.340 meters. Soon more details on their website about the Ski Week in Austria. [www.WinterPride-Soelden.com](http://www.WinterPride-Soelden.com)

## Boot Tan Festival, Colorado USA

March 29th thru 30th 2024

The event started in 2021 with only 27 backcountry skiers before growing to 200 in its second year and 350 in its third. This year over 1500 are expected as the Boot Tan Festival is gearing up for its fourth year of inviting women to hit the slopes fully nude for an after-hours ski run at Sunlight Mountain Resort in Glenwood Springs. Founder Jenny Verrochi, said the event started "unintentionally to create a safe place for female skiers that would allow women to be free in a private place." This year, she has opened up the festival to femme-presenting nonbinary individuals as well.



Verrochi also said that "her first and foremost priority is to protect the women." When asked if she feared men might try to sneak in under the disguise of nonbinary she said "We never had an issue with men or men-identifying." As for women who may be weary, they don't have to take their clothes, Jenny who also participates in the event continued to say "they won't want to by the end of the event. There's not a single person with clothes on by the end of the day," she revealed.

She described the experience as "collective joy" and said most of the women feel free to strip to their birthday suits because they're among like-minded people and no prying eyes are around. The women will be clothed going up the ski lift and fully dressed before re-entering Sunlight Mountain Resort's facilities. In addition, there will be only a female staff on the mountain when the women and femmes zip down, and male employees will have their phones taken away during the event for security reasons.

The resort will be open to everyone, including men during the day, but after its 3pm closing time, only those with a Boot Tan Festival ticket will be allowed to stay and shred. During the day, women-owned vendors will be spotlighted in a merchant village and festivities include a comedy show, live music and a tailgate party. Every year, Verrochi hopes the women find a "newfound love for their bodies" and walk away with "friendships" and new experiences. [www.BootTanFest.com](http://www.BootTanFest.com)



## Jasper Pride & Ski Festival, Jasper, Alberta, Canada

April 5th thru 14th, 2024

Jasper is a fairy-tale mountain ski resort in the Canadian Rockies with a traditionally diverse and open-minded community. It is a beautiful place to enjoy winter and ski vacations between Vancouver, Edmonton, and Calgary. Jasper is nestled amidst the majestic Canadian Rockies, the picturesque town of Jasper transforms into a vibrant rainbow wonderland during the Jasper Pride & Ski Festival. This week long extravaganza, welcomes LGBTQ+ skiers and snowboarders from across the globe for a celebration of winter sports, inclusive revelry, and breathtaking mountain scenery.

With snow-capped peaks and the crisp mountain air invigorating your senses, the exhilaration of the slopes seamlessly blends with the après-ski buzz, where cozy chalets pulsate with exciting conversations and laughter. Whether you're a seasoned shredder or a first-timer on the bunny hill, Jasper Pride & Ski Festival embraces everyone with open arms, offering a kaleidoscope of activities and events that cater to every interest and skill level, including themed parties, drag brunch extravaganzas, and movie nights under starlit skies. [www.JasperPride.ca](http://www.JasperPride.ca)

🇪🇺 Europe's favorite gay ski week from January 20 - 27, 2024 🇪🇺  
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# LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

by: Mike at Night

Here's a New Year's resolution that would make a difference in your community.

## LOCAL BUSINESSES DEPEND ON YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Remember to support our local businesses in our community that serve and entertain us throughout the year.

Here are a few restaurant recommendations that your customer-business would really mean a lot to the owners and their staff.

Your support does make a difference! You can also mention that boiMAGazine sent you and of course, you'll get the special welcoming "family treatment" hook-up!



**Edgewater Mexican Café** is located at 1055 W. Bryn Mar Ave; walking steps from the Red Line train L-Station, in Chicago.

This is a fairly new LGBTQ+ owned and operated small business. They opened a few years back prior to the pandemic, and when they just got started, then Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Governor J. B. Pritzker closed down all bars, clubs and restaurants for over 2 years. Fortunately for us, they have survived and are definitely open for business. Stop by for happy hour and a drink at their bar, where you might see sexy and friendly AJ behind the bar. You can dine in, or when the weather is good, dine out on their outdoor sidewalk café that spans the whole side of their building. [www.edgewatermexicancafe.com](http://www.edgewatermexicancafe.com)



**El Jardin Mexican Restaurant** is at 3335 N. Clark St; just south of Wrigley Field in Chicago.

El Jardin a family business that have welcomed and served the LGBTQ+ community for over 56 years. They have a full bar on the other side of the restaurant to hang out, relax and have a drink anytime, or you can dine in, carry food out, or have food delivered.

El Jardin also does catering, so if you ever need food for a house gathering, give them a call, their phone number is 773-528-6775. [www.Eljardinchicago.com](http://www.Eljardinchicago.com)



**Marina's Bistro & Rum Bar**, located in Uptown at 4554 N Magnolia. It's at Wilson & Magnolia, just west of the Wilson Train Stop by the Subway Shop.

Marian's Bistro has recently opened. The owner and chef Eric has been a local socialite and member of the nightlife community for many years. He had a dream of opening his own restaurant for some time, and it's now finally here.

Since this restaurant is a new startup, it's important in these difficult times, that we support the dream and hard work, that has come this far, to bring us authentic Puerto Rican food with a passion. Check out the restaurant and the featured interview with him in this issue of boiMAGazine. [www.marinasbistrochicago.com](http://www.marinasbistrochicago.com)



**Las Mañanitas**, located on the Halsted Street strip, at 3523 N Halsted St, Chicago.

This restaurant has been serving the LGBTQ+ community since 1983, and didn't sell out to the huge Howard Brown project that wanted to take over the whole block. Gone are Cornelia's Restaurant, Little Jim's, The Ram, the popular Taco & Burrito Palace and Tattoo shop. But Las Mañanitas wanted to keep their business for the community. These are the businesses that support our community, and we should not forget to support them and their staff! Their phone number is 773-528-2109.



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[www.MarinasBistroChicago.com](http://www.MarinasBistroChicago.com)

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# EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Marina's Bistro is located at 455 N. Magnolia Ave in Chicago

## Q&A WITH OWNER ERIC ROLDAN FROM MARINA'S BISTRO

by: **Mike At Night**

Chicago Community Journalist, Small Business Advocate,  
Graphic Designer, Nightlife & Event Promoter

**Q:** How long have you wanted to open a restaurant and what were your inspirations?

**A:** *I've wanted to open my own restaurant ever since I went to culinary school back in 2017, and I wanted to make my mother proud since at a younger age she taught me how to cook.*

**Q:** What businesses did you own before opening Marina's Bistro?

**A:** *I started as ghost kitchen in Avondale, and I knew I had what it takes to open a brick and mortar.*

**Q:** Can you tell us about your venture to Puerto Rico and what was your decision to come back to Chicago?

**A:** *My decision to move back to Chicago was because after I went to culinary school in Puerto Rico, I knew I had a chance in opening a successful restaurant in Chicago.*

**Q:** Tell us about your latest venture, Marianas Bistro, and what makes it special?

**A:** *Marinas Bistro is special because when you walk in you feel transported to old San Juan, and it's because of the decor and the authentic food that you will find here.*

**Q:** What are you most proud of about Marianas Bistro?

**A:** *I'm proud of Marinas because I'm keeping my moms legacy, and I'm bringing a piece of our culture to uptown.*



**Q:** Where did you get the restaurant's name Mariana's Bistro from?

**A:** *I decided to name the restaurant after my mom in honor of her memory.*

**Q:** What do you recommend on the menu?

**A:** *The must try on our menu is the Mofongo which is a Puerto Rican staple.*

# SELF TRANSFORMATION HEALTH & WELLNESS

## INVESTING IN CHANGE



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

**“All great changes are preceded by chaos”... this quote by Deepak Chopra can make you gulp. Chaos?! Chaos is certainly not comfortable and it does not seem to go along well with the phrase we so often hear: Change is Good. Well which is it? Even with discomfort, many mental and physical health professionals agree, change is a good thing. Here are some considerations for the why and what of investing in change.**

- Change can help you get you out of the mire. Moving toward something new and different may be just what you need to refocus. Is this weight loss, a job, a move? Don't let it overwhelm you. Take baby steps and be systematic.
- Change is a word associated with the New Year and often means leaving old ways of doing things behind. When changing old ways of doing things many successful people write it down, journal about it along the way, or tell someone as a “change responsibility partner”.
- Change means being open; wide open, to hands held out in support; sharing your needs and interests with people you meet and being ready and willing to say, “Yes”, to needed help. Don't be surprised if you meet new people and begin to broaden your scope and caliber of support. This is when change really makes an impact!
- So many of these health and wellness articles over the years have expounded on the idea of relying on resiliency factors to pull you through. Problem solving, social competence, a sense of humor, a sense of future and a mentor are 5 resiliency factors; and each of these are enhanced when we change. Keep them in mind as you move forward and put them in place anytime you can. You will be stronger than you ever thought you could be in difficult times.

- Know yourself. Is change exciting or scary? If you know how you will receive it, you can be ready for it.
- Change causes honesty. What??? Change can cause you to admit the less-than-positive forces that you have been aligning alongside.
- Change of any kind is courageous as it means letting go and being different. People will recognize the positivity and “newness” in you. Their reactions will drive you to do and be even more courageous in embracing change.

Maybe a light will go on for you and you will find exactly what you need.

- You may surprise yourself! Won't it feel great when you reach a change goal? Celebrate you. Make time to pat yourself on the back.

All in all, change is good. It may not be easy and it may feel chaotic; but set your sights on something new! You won't regret it. Have a change-filled, happy new year.



- Change opens up avenues of creativity and spontaneity. So much can happen when you are open to new ways of doing things and that is what life is about. Ask questions, look for how others are doing things and do some research.

If negative ways of doing things are causing anxiety and depression, know that a free level of care assessment is available to you at Lake Behavioral Hospital. One call to 855-990-1900 may help you bring that needed change in your life.



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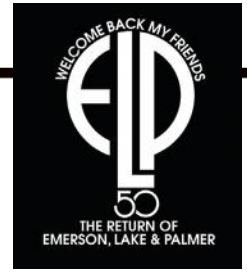
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# IN CONCERT

## EMERSON, LAKE & PALMER



by: **Jorge Suarez**

*Chicago Producer, Music Aficionado*

**Emmerson, Lake & Palmer (ELP), performed at the Genesee Theatre for their "Welcome Back My Friends" tour just prior to the 2023 holidays.**



The trio of Emerson, Lake, and Palmer, formed in 1970. The group performed a combination of classical music, jazz, and symphony. All sounds rolled into the classic rock category.



The showmanship of Emerson and his keyboard talents were first observed as he played multiple keyboards, as many as 6 keyboards at once. Their first self-titled LP was released in 1970 on Atlantic Records (U.S.), followed by *Tarkus*, back in 1971.

Throughout the 70s, other noteworthy albums such as *Trilogy* and *Brain Salad Surgery* all climbed the charts, though *Works Vol.1* and *Works Vol.2* (late 70s), allowed each member to showcase their talent.

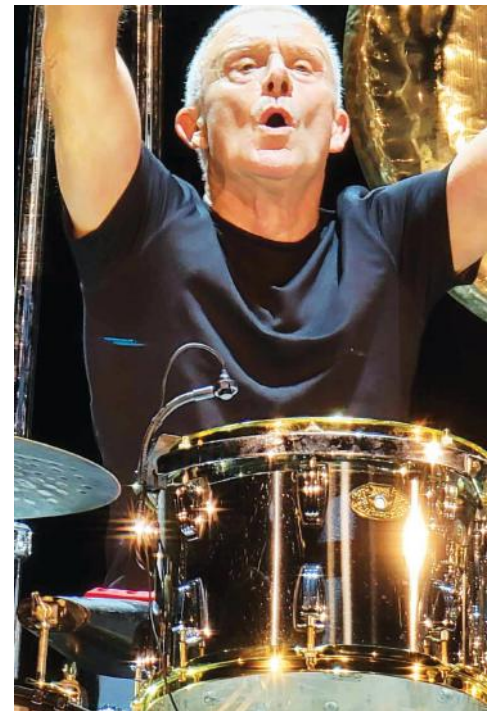
It wasn't until the late 70s when the band broke up, however, with the passing of Emerson and Lake, after 2010. Palmer resurfaced with a tribute to his fellow members, and is now touring. Sole surviving member Carl Palmer, in association with the legacy estate of his band-mates Keith Emerson & Greg Lake, then decided to announce **"The Return Of Emerson, Lake, and Palmer 2023 Summer Tour"**.

The tour reunites the ELP original bands live on stage through modern technology. The voice and instrumentation of Greg Lake and the unmistakable keyboard mastery of Keith Emerson is mixed with Palmer's on-stage live drumming to magically reunite ELP once again.

Emerson and Lake passed away nine months apart in 2016, leaving Palmer to carry on the band's enormous musical legacy. Current line-up includes Paul Bielatowicz (*guitarist*),

and Simon Fitzpatrick (*bass/stick player*), performing instrumental versions of ELP songs as Carl Palmer's ELP Legacy.

What can be said about the talented Keith Emerson who can play 6 keyboards at once, and the great vocals of Greg Lake who went on to become part of ASIA.



This was an evening of sitting back and enjoying the music, so few pics and vids were taken, but listening to "Lucky Man" and "Fanfare" were the 2 tracks that brought back great memories.

# COMMENTARY UNCENSORED



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

**Have any of you seen or remember the movie "The Out Of Towner's"? It's about everything going wrong on your trip. The movie was released in 1970 by Neal Simon, starring starring Jack Lemmon and Sandy Dennis.**

Well that was our trip to New Orleans to celebrate the New Year. Everything was going to be great, or so my husband Mark and I thought. The comedy of errors, and mishaps started the moment we arrived at the airport. Our service dog Mr. Big who is well behaved crouched down to take a sh\*t. Mark caught him just in time and unfortunately the pet relief area was way on the other side of the airport. On top of that, Mark miss-read our tickets and we went completely in the wrong direction! We had minutes to spare before we were going to miss our flight! We were sweating and ran like hell, only to get to the gate and find out the flight was delayed! Good! Time for a cocktail!. So then on we went and we finally landed in New Orleans and it appears I somehow lost my credit card.

We were staying at a friends 4th floor apartment and found out the elevator no longer worked so we carried heavy luggage and the dog, up the narrow staircase. We got there and passed out from exhaustion, only to find out that Marks card was gone too! Next there was a loud knock on our door at 4am. The toilet had flooded all the way down to the 2nd floor! So there was no toilet and no elevator. It was one of the busiest times in the French Quarter and not a hotel to be found. We had reservations for the next couple of nights, but no place to go to that following night. Score! I called the Royal Sonesta and they said yes! Come a day early, we have a room and you won't even need to change rooms from your original reservation.

When we got there, they had NO ROOM for us at all! NOW WHAT? So I'm complaining and mad as all hell, but we managed to get an overpriced room at the Omni. Next we were excited to use our season tickets to the first Pelicans game that we got to see all year. We were staying near the stadium, but the cab driver got lost!

He said he lived in New Orleans, for over 40 years and had never been there! How was that possible? Of course we were late. The coup de gras was the dinner we booked at one of our favorite restaurants Muriel's on Jackson Square. We booked 2 months in advance and were seated only to find out that the restaurant was OUT OF FOOD!



We dined on appetizers that they made up for us. There were other disasters to come, but too many to write about. We loved walking out of the restaurant on that eve, watched the beautiful fireworks and kissed to ring in 2024! A stranger shared a nice bottle of Champagne with us.

No matter what, It was still impossible not to love New Orleans! We enjoyed the college "Sugar Bowl" and lost another credit card, but seeing old friends and enjoying the historic place, in the end it made it all worth while.

I am going to make a New Year's resolution, hopefully this is one I can keep. There are times when we could return a call, but just convince ourselves we are too busy. Other times we could make a visit, but it might be a bit difficult, and we tell ourselves that soon we will make it. What I just learned, thankfully perhaps minutes before it would be too late, was to make a call I could have made a couple of days back. A dear friend of mine is going into hospice. I heard from his brother a couple of days ago that he was sick, but no one could imagine he would go completely downhill so quickly. I boarded a plane, but had a feeling that I needed to call NOW! Thank God I did. His brother put him on speaker phone and he could still hear me and respond, though weakly. I was able to say I love you, and won't give up on you!

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## >> **UNCENSORED** *Continued*

I will pray. I also told him I would be releasing all of the music he did on TRAX and he thanked me and said I LOVE YOU. Hopefully that will not be the last time we can speak, BUT WHAT IF IT WAS? What if I never made the call in time? I could never forgive myself, and I'm so glad I could bring him some happiness, good news and show him that I cared.



That friend was Matt Donovan, a beloved Chicago guitarist and composer that I worked with on and off for years. We went all the way back to the Space Place in the 80's, where we practiced with our groups and also did shows. Some of you might know him and remember Matt. Hopefully he'll still be with us when you read this. So make that call, visit that friend, rescue that animal in need. Sometimes we may not get a second chance. It could also be your very own last chance for love. Maybe my idea could inspire you to make the same resolution. I wish you all love and hope that you and your loved ones experience the happiest year of your life in 2024!

*[Editors note: Unfortunately Matt Donovan passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 9th, he was 59 years old. A celebration of life party is being planned in his honor, details TBA.]*



On my last night in New Orleans, I visited The Voodoo Spiritual Temple and Cultural Center, on Rampart Street run by a friend of mine, Priestess Miriam. Most people are frightened by the word Voodoo, but it is actually an ancient African practice steeped in Christianity. Marie Laveau, New Orleans most famous Voodoo Queen attended Catholic Church every day. Miriam is a wise woman who told me to "stand strong". Sometimes she said I try to be too kind and that kindness leads to more miss understanding. We both agreed that these are unusually difficult times, and she said future generations would study about what had happened these days, for years to come. I asked her about crystals and potions, but she did not sell me anything. She gave me a Christian prayer typed in a cross, which she advised me to always carry, and to give copies to friends. Her parting words were, Belief in the Lord and self love has the strongest healing power of all! AMEN! To learn more visit [www.voodoospiritualtemple.org](http://www.voodoospiritualtemple.org)

UNCENSORED

Since boiMAGazine has reached milestone 24, here's the story behind the name boi.

The term "boi" has undergone a fascinating evolution in recent years, transitioning from a slang term within LGBTQ+ communities to a broader expression embraced by individuals across the gender spectrum. While its roots lie in the gay male and butch communities, where it often denoted masculinity, its meaning has blossomed to encompass a wider range of identities and expressions.

For some people assigned female at birth, "boi" offers a way to reclaim and redefine masculinity outside of the confines of the "man" box. It can be an embracement of masculine aesthetics and traits, or simply a comfortable way to identify with their gender experience. Lesbians who are neither butch nor femme are often called androgynous. Some say that the term boi is typically used by younger LGBT women.

By 2003, the dominant definition on Urban Dictionary was a young butch lesbian, and so it remained until 2016, where now it's been updated to include intersex, trans, genderqueer, nonbinary and those who identify as cis persons or trans men, and there's possibly more inclusions to come.

Beyond the binary, "boi" resonates with non-binary individuals who navigate a spectrum of gender expression. It can represent a rejection of the gender assigned at birth, a way to express a fluid or non-conforming gender identity, or simply a comfortable label that avoids the rigidity of traditional gender categories, since it's neither all male or female by definition.

In other words, it's fluid and it depends on how it's intended or what context it's used in. The beauty of "boi" lies in its fluidity and defiance of categorization. It's not a fixed label, but rather a term that individuals can use and define for themselves. It can be a statement of personal power, a way to reclaim agency over one's gender expression, and a celebration of individuality.

However, it's important to remember that the term "boi" can be male, female or neither, due to the intention of use by the user. Not everyone assigned female at birth or non-binary individuals will resonate with the term, and to be mindful that it's not a blanket description or appropriation.

Just like a qubit can exist in a state of 0 and 1 simultaneously, the term "boi" can embody both masculine and feminine (or neither) qualities at the same time. This aligns with the concept of non-binary gender identities that exist outside the binary spectrum.

Ultimately, the evolving usage of "boi" reflects a growing understanding and acceptance of diverse gender identities and expressions. It's a term that celebrates individuality, challenges binary norms, and offers a powerful tool for self-reclamation and self-expression. As we move towards a more inclusive and understanding world, "boi" serves as a reminder that gender is not a fixed box, but a kaleidoscope of possibilities.

As if that's not enough to absorb, several years ago we gave boi and acronym, which stands for "Bet On It." If you're thinking why does B.O.I. stand for Bet On It, well that's a loaded question! The short answer is, years ago, we built a prototype for a boiApp to be released sometime in the future, when funds became available to make the App come to fruition. Since the idea is proprietary, it's been in the top-secret vault, so the only thing I can reveal is that it's similar to casino app, but this has never been done before. It's free to play the user is the winner. I'm not talking about winning virtual coins, or baiting the user to buy coins, they actually win! The brilliance behind the creative design is there's gratification to using the App. It doesn't use the user, it's fun to play and win. Hopefully some day soon I can reveal more, so you can play it to unleash its amazing attributes. But until then, it must remain in the vault



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# ASK CHAR

The views and/or advice expressed here are my personal opinions, based on my life experience, and don't necessarily reflect the opinions of any other individual or organization. Have a question? eMail me at [AskChar@boiMAG.com](mailto:AskChar@boiMAG.com)

Dear Char,

**"My family doesn't approve of my partner. How can I navigate this tension without compromising my values or my relationship?"**

Dear Painful in Plainfield,

This is such a painful issue! Let's start with your family. If you have a mostly (no relationships are perfect) healthy relationship with the family members who are part of the conflict, and you think the talk can be free of yelling and abusive communication, find out why your partner is not liked. Is there a real reason or past history that is driving the objections to your chosen relationship? When you talk, be honest about your feelings. Make sure they understand the stress and pain it creates for you and your partner.

This will not be an easy conversation to have. It is going to be important not to let an issue like this fester. Get to working it out or, at least talking about it right away. Try getting the points of discussion solid in your mind before you chat with your family. Even writing down what you want to say may help. Keep respect a priority and do your best to keep emotions in check. Your best active listening skills will be needed. Don't skirt around the issue, talk to them and ask key questions like:

- **It seems you have an issue with [name]. Is this true?**

- **Can you tell me why you don't like/respect/want me associated with [name]?**

If they are sharing things you have not recognized, pay attention. Hear them! Are they telling you that you are not safe? Are they feeling isolated because this person is controlling you and your time? Are you tolerating abusive language or poor treatment because you are in a new relationship? Is your family just worried about you? Might they be right?

Try to see their concerns through their eyes and listen! Your family may be picking up on things you are dismissing because you are in love or because you don't know how to leave someone without hurting.

Do you have a friend who is a good sounding board? If you do, tell them what your family is saying and be willing to hear if your friend feels the same. If they agree with your family, do you know what you will do? This is going to require you to pull from strength you didn't know you have. If everyone agrees that this person is not for you, you will really have some thinking to do.

If the issues relate to safety, you can call your local domestic violence programs to hear warning signs for yourself. This will give you more to consider, and may save you from danger in the future.

Keep your partner in the loop! They're not in a vacuum and they know that there's negative feelings about them and your relationship. Make sure you're sharing what and when you're beginning conversations with your family. Are their family members feeling the same way about you? It's something to consider. Your conversations as a couple should explore all of this.

Now, here's the hard part. If your family doesn't "like" your partner for reasons that are prejudicial in nature, that may not be so repairable. These kinds of issues: race, religious practices, political views, sexual orientation or work preferences, make it tough because people don't change their minds easily on these issues. This could clearly be a "we'll agree to disagree" situation and you may have to tell them that your relationship will continue, sadly and respectfully, without their approval. If there are times where your partner can naturally be included in family events to create some comfort between the two, then try giving it a shot.

Be an advocate for your partner. Consider their best qualities and be ready to share the best of who they are with your family. Perhaps, they are missing some key assets.

As you can see, there are overall goals here. The goal is to make sure, first and foremost, that you are in a healthy relationship. Secondly, the goal is to make sure that you are able to manage relationships with family and with your partner, and be happy.

These issues can be very emotionally draining. If you find it's causing extreme distress, consider calling 855.990.1900 24/7/365 to talk to someone that will help you sort it all out.

# TECH TRENDS

by Jack Santo ■ ■ ■

If you've read the magazine this far, let me welcome you to *boiMAGazine's* 24 anniversary issue, where you may have noticed plenty of new changes. To help us celebrate this historical milestone, we've brought on board two new seasoned journalists, and a omniscient AI staff assistant called *boiBOT*, providing new tech tools that helped us launch into the new year with a bigger and better *boiMAGazine*. Now let's take a look at the road and what we might see on our journey into the future.

## HOW AI POWERED BY QUBITS WILL RESHAPE OUR WORLD

### The Quantum Leap

If you aren't aware, we've already been using Artificial intelligence (AI) in our everyday life and it's begun to assimilate into our lives, from facial recognition unlocking smart-phones to personalized medical diagnoses. Let's take a look forward down the road to see if we are approaching the dawn of a new era, where AI, empowered by the enigmatic realm of quantum computing is taking a quantum leap forward.

The potential for this revolution lies in the fundamental differences between classical computers and their quantum counterparts. Traditional computers operate on bits, which can be either 0 or 1. Quantum computers, however, harness the power of qubits, which can be 0, 1, or both at the same time, a phenomenon known as superposition. This allows them to explore vast landscapes of possibilities in parallel, exponentially speeding up difficult calculations.

This newfound computational prowess has the potential to revolutionize AI in several ways:

### Breaking the Bottlenecks of Machine Learning

Training complex AI models currently requires immense computational resources and time.

Quantum computers could significantly reduce this burden by efficiently processing massive datasets and identifying hidden patterns traditional methods miss. This could lead to the development of AI with unparalleled learning abilities, capable of understanding the world with greater nuance and adapting to changing circumstances much faster.

### Cracking Nature's Code

Quantum computers excel at simulating complex systems, from the intricate dance of molecules to the turbulent ebb and flow of weather patterns.

properties, formulating personalized medicine based on individual genetic variations, or predicting climate change with unprecedented accuracy.

### The Rise of Superhuman Intelligence

While the concept of artificial *general* intelligence (AGI) When AI that surpasses human intelligence in all aspects, remains a distant dream, however, quantum computing could bring us a lot closer. By allowing AI to explore vast problem spaces and learn from vast



This opens doors to breakthroughs in fields like materials science, drug discovery, and climate modeling. Imagine AI-powered systems designing new materials with unheard-of





amounts of data with unparalleled speed, we might witness the emergence of AI with problem solving abilities far exceeding our own.

*Continued >>*



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## The Human-Machine Partnership

This revolution won't replace us, it will redefine our relationship with technology. Quantum-powered AI will not be a monolithic entity to be feared, but a powerful partner to collaborate with. We can envision AI as an extension of our own capabilities, assisting us in decision making, creative endeavors, and scientific pursuits.

## THIS QUANTUM LEAP ALSO RAISES SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS

### The Job Displacement Dilemma:

As AI becomes more sophisticated, automation may displace certain jobs, requiring societies to adapt and reskill their workforce.

### The Ethical Quagmire

Entrusting AI with critical decisions raises questions about accountability and bias. We must ensure that quantum-powered AI is developed and deployed ethically, with safeguards against discriminatory outcomes.

### The Security Challenge

The ability to break complex encryption algorithms poses a significant security threat. Robust cybersecurity measures will be crucial to protect sensitive information.

The potential of quantum computing to revolutionize AI is undeniable. While challenges remain, the potential benefits are too significant to ignore. By harnessing the power of qubits responsibly and ethically, we can usher in a new era of human-machine collaboration, where AI serves as a catalyst for progress, not a harbinger of existential threats.

This quantum leap will undoubtedly reshape our world. The human experience will be transformed by AI-powered advancements in healthcare, education, energy, and more. We may witness the birth of new industries and the eradication of age-old challenges. However, navigating this transformation requires careful consideration of the ethical and societal implications.



By embracing the power of quantum-powered AI while mitigating its risks, we can ensure that this leap forward leads to a brighter future for all.

This is just the beginning of the story. The full extent of how quantum computing will revolutionize AI, and in turn, the human experience, remains to be discovered. But one thing is certain: the future promises to be exciting, challenging, and profoundly transformative.

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