



NewsLeather

Leather: It's who you are, not what you wear

NLA-Dallas is about Education * Activism * Community

Welcome to the NLA-Dallas NewsLeather...Again!

Welcome to Issue One of the rebooted NLA-Dallas NewsLeather! This monthly newsletter will introduce you to members of our community, delve into Leather Wisdom, and highlight some of the groups and vendors available to us; plus, every issue will include a calendar of area events for those who want to get further involved.

We encourage our members to share the NewsLeather with friends and family who might find it informative, who might be interested in Leather, and/or who might be interested in joining our NLA-Dallas family. Additionally, we want to hear from you! Have a question or a comment? Send it our way; we will be publishing selected submissions in upcoming NewsLeathers. Have a talent or hobby? Let us know; we plan to spotlight artists of all kinds in every edition.

Welcome once again! We hope you find the NLA-Dallas NewsLeather to be a welcome companion on your Leather Journey!

Sincerely,
The NLA-Dallas NewsLeather Editorial Committee
(See Page 3)



boy don (he/him) sporting NLA-Dallas colors

Beyond Vanilla - A History In The Making

Beyond Vanilla is a multi-day event in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex celebrating its 30th year in 2020! In 1984, as the AIDS crisis was gaining momentum, a men's BDSM group called the Disciples of de Sade was founded. They began holding seminars in the small meeting room in the back of the Dallas Gay Alliance,



Master TC (he/him) ready to roll at Beyond Vanilla

with 15 - 20 people in attendance. Through the years, the presentations grew, moved locations, and became known as Beyond Vanilla.

In 1990, it was turned over to the then young club, NLA-Dallas, who has grown and shaped it to what we know today.

What began as a safe sex workshop has evolved into an educational conference about how to do what we do safely and consensually, with the primary focus on newer community members.

Continued on page 8

NLA-DALLAS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Hardy Haberman



Hardy Haberman (He/Him)

Long time LGBT activist and member of the leather community since the mid 1970's, Hardy is still an enthusiastic participant in the leather scene. He is author of several books on kink related subjects including *The Family Jewels: A Guide to Male Genital Play and Torment* published by Greenery Press, and *Soul of a Second Skin: The Journey of a Gay Christian Leatherman and Shouts in the Wilderness, Daily Meditations for Leatherfolk*.

His awards include the "Leather Leadership Award" from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, "Man of the Year" and "Lifetime Achievement" awards from NLA-I, the "Leatherman's Heart Award" from Southwest Leatherfest and the "Jack Stice Memorial Award" at South Plains Leatherfest. Most recently he was awarded the Marcus Hernandez Lifetime Achievement Award at Pantheon on Leather.

Hardy has been a member of NLA-Dallas since 1994 and has served on the organization's Executive Committee numerous times as well as serving briefly as CoChair of National Leather Association International. He holds a lifetime membership in both organizations.

Hardy is a columnist for the Dallas Voice and is currently the Co-Chairperson on the Board of Directors of the Woodhull Freedom Foundation in Washington, DC. He lives in Dallas where he and his boy celebrated 25 years together as partners in play and life.

[NLA Member Discount of 10% at Blue Smoke of Dallas](#)



CONTESTS AND TITLES: Great Plains Olympus Leather

Great Plains Olympus Leather (GPOL) is an annual contest founded in 1996, hosted at the Dallas Eagle, and produced by Master TC and slave Audra. Their mission is "to promote a positive image of the Leather/BDSM/Fetish lifestyle, and to promote representatives of the entire leather community regardless of race, religion, political beliefs, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, age, size, handicap, or health condition." A panel of judges selects their title-holders from all facets of our community, "ranging from the motorcycle and Leather/Levi clubs to the heaviest SM edge player and all of the Leatherfolk in between."



Sir Tender and Maverick
Ms. and Mx. Great Plains
Olympus Leather 2019, 2020

Up to three representatives (Mr., Ms., and Mx.) are chosen each year from a group of hopeful candidates to be champions of the mission of Great Plains Olympus Leather, and often go on to compete for the title of International Olympus Leather.

Currently, the title-holders for Great Plains Olympus Leather are Sir Tender, as Ms. Great Plains Olympus Leather, and Maverick, the first ever Mx. Great Plains Olympus Leather. Here's what they had to say about Great Plains, and its impact on them, and their hopes for impacting the community:

Continued on Page 6 - GPOL

CLUBS AND CHARITIES SPOTLIGHT: Safe To Be

Safe to Be is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to creating a tiny home community for marginalized LGBTQ+ individuals. Their focus is to provide emergency transitional, and permanent housing for at-risk and/or homeless LGBTQ+ persons with a significant emphasis on being trans inclusive. "Frequently, homeless LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) persons have great difficulty finding shelters that accept and respect them. LGBTQ+ individuals experiencing homelessness are often at a heightened risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation compared with their heterosexual peers. Transgender people are particularly at physical risk due to a lack of acceptance and are often turned away from shelters; in some cases signs have been posted barring their entrance." (NATIONALHOMELESSNESS.ORG)

One in five transgender people in the United States has been discriminated against when seeking a home, one in five transgender individuals have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives, and more than one in ten have been evicted from their homes, because of their gender identity. (TRANSEQUALITY.ORG)

Our Story: Safe To Be started with a vision to create a place where it is safe for LGBTQ+ persons to be themselves, in a town that celebrates diversity, at a location that allows for healing and personal growth. The Ozark Mountains provide a home for Safe To Be, and Safe To Be provides homes to anyone from anywhere.

Safe To Be is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit made possible by the community for the community.



Click on photo above to watch video



Safe To Be Tiny Homes for marginalized LGBTQ+ individuals

NewsLeather Editorial Committee

Jade
Katrine
KinkyIrishCowboy
patience

Sir Tender
Trix
Velvet Steele

Do you have a story to share? Feedback? A vendor or artist you would like interviewed? Please contact us at newsleather@googlegroups.com



Jade (he/him)

FEATURED EDITORIAL: Leather Masters



This Isn't Goodbye. It's See You Later: The Fluid Legacy of Leather Masters

On May 30th, 2020 at 6:03pm, Leather Master's Markus posted a picture on its Facebook page with its final customer, Ronin. When asked how he felt about being the final customer before Leather Masters (LM) shut its doors permanently, Ronin had this to say,

"It was saddening, I took pictures and recorded a few words. I can't believe it's gone. Thanks for the opportunities, the knowledge, and most of all the memories. This isn't the end."

The history of Leather Masters stretches back to 1989, making them 31 years old as of April 2020. Starting in a single room above a bar called "The Heat" in San Jose, California, founders David Carranza and Tony DaCosta recognized the need for high quality leather clothing in their community. They eventually moved and expanded to 969 Park Ave. and began selling their products online in 1996. In 2001, they opened a store location in Allentown, PA and ran that location successfully until forced closure due to harassment from the city of Allentown. In 2004, a bar owner contacted David and Tony and they opened a spot in San Antonio. Unfortunately in 2005 both the Allentown and San Antonio locations had to close, but in June 2005, Leather Masters opened in Dallas, Texas, along with adding a 25-year legacy from Leather by Boots, including new unique designs and a manufacturing department.

Markus, who has been working with leather since he was 13 years old, met David and Tony at a kink event about 7-8 years ago where he filled in at their vendor booth due to an emergency. From there, they began building a relationship with each other, with Leather Masters selling House of Markus products, until, eventually, both businesses decided to merge, and Markus took over the business while David and Tony retired. During the year 2020, Leather Masters moved from its Deep Ellum location to a bigger location in Dallas with plans to open an over 14,000 square footage of space that would have included a 60-person classroom meant to serve the community, with the idea of being a central education hub for the DFW leather and kink community. However, due to COVID-19 and the mandatory quarantine, Leather Masters was forced to postpone its Grand Opening and remain closed. During the pandemic, Leather Masters faithfully served the Dallas Kink and Leather Communities and beyond by making masks during the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) Shortage.

Leather Masters, to Ronin and to the entire community, was more than just your average leather goods store. It was an information hub for the Dallas kink and leather community. Numerous educational events sponsored through his group H.O.M.E (House of Markus Endeavor) were held at Leather Masters, to include classes that sometimes crammed up to 60 people in the manufacturing section at the Deep Ellum location, or the all-day intensive which hosted 4 classes on various topics in one day.

Sometimes though, the education was not always taught in a formal setting. There was a welcoming atmosphere in which to make connections at Leather Masters, even through casual interactions and conversations, and that really drew Ronin and others to keep coming back to the store time and time again, "...It was more about etiquette and social norms learned from conversations," Ronin said.

For those who are not necessarily leather but are into kink, Leather Masters served as a safe space for those in the lifestyle looking for gear, connections, or an all-around unique experience. "Anytime we went, we were always greeted by a friendly associate, and when we had questions about something, there would always be more than one associate trying to help us, by making suggestions or other recommendations if they didn't have exactly what we were looking for." says Taylor, a member of the Dallas Kink Community. "I remember thinking, 'Wow, what a revolutionary place. Putting a place that promotes and normalizes kink right in the middle of Deep Ellum.'" (cont'd)

Leather Masters (continued from page 4)

On top of providing education, high quality leather products and goods, and a friendly welcoming atmosphere, Leather Masters also made a name for itself through its numerous donations to Raffles, Run bags, Vests, Back Patches, and Medallions for various events and title runs, large and small, throughout the country supporting events such as Mr. and Mrs. Texas Bootblack, GPOL (Great Plains Olympus Leather), SPLF (South Plains Leatherfest), a primary sponsor for ILSB (International Leather Sir and Boy), and for IMSL (International MS Leather) for which they provided Medallions and Lanyards.



Leather Masters before the move

They've been a sponsor for numerous events as well as a vendor selling their products. Countless title holders and contestants around the world have worn or currently wear Leather Masters clothing and/or products. When asked what they would like Leather Masters to know, numerous voices from the community had this to say:

- *"If I could say anything to Leather Masters, it would be, thank you. Thank you for helping me grow as I first came in as a little boy and grew into a leather man that is now standing here in front of everyone as a proud leather woman." (Maria "Rev Angelique" Trevino)*
- *"I'm proud of them. Their vision for the future of the business as a core part of the community was remarkable. They saw a need for classrooms and meeting space and included that in their plans." (Giant)*
- *"Thank you, for all of the time, resources, and energy you have put into the community through the years." (Bootblack Zahira, 2020-21 Route 66 Bootblack)*
- *"I think it's admirable that they've been serving the community as long as they have. And so efficiently." (Da Kollector)*
- *"I think I would like to say that what you have done for the kink Community by creating a space for kink education and offering quality leather goods is something we are thankful for and that we are going to miss. And that we hope that you are able to make a comeback and continue to make leather goods after this Coronavirus stuff is over!" (Taylor)*
- *"It saddens me to lose such an iconic place where people would come to Dallas just to visit and the leather world will never be the same." (Master TC)*

When speaking of any future plans, Markus already has ideas in the works. He intends on getting back to his roots with custom leather work and House of Markus high end custom made pieces, with that being his main focus and missed passion while running the business of Leather Masters. While stuff from the old store location has been moved into storage, Markus does plan on donating rich pieces of history from Leather Masters to put into the Leather Archives Museum in Chicago, IL, such as Dave's Original Mail Order Catalogue and IML posters that are autographed by title winners and runners from 1989. As for Leather Masters, as a brand, there is hope as he shops around for local leather businesses looking to pick up the product lines. He has found a manufacturer in Kansas that can produce vests and he is currently in talks with someone to produce harnesses.

In the end, another chapter in the exemplary story of this historic business in the community comes to a close. However, due to its versatile history, the only question that remains is, when and where will Leather Masters begin another chapter?

- *Interview/Article written by Jade*



Have you seen our new look? NLADallas.org

“Great Plains Olympus Leather provides a welcome space for anyone wishing to be a part of the Leather community, wherever your starting point. Everyone has the freedom to represent themselves as they are and find acceptance; it’s more about WHO you are! I find deeper connections, educational opportunities, a chance to have a voice, and the ability to truly be me. I was taught to take care of myself, not depend on anyone and ‘be strong,’ ‘be independent,’ ‘be a woman.’ While those words still ring true, I have learned the value of family and community within Leather. I am not alone, and I don’t have to be. I want to help others find that feeling of belonging, too. Being able to represent our region as Ms. Great Plains Olympus Leather 2019, and now 2020, makes it possible for me to have a wider reach both within the community and in the general public. GPOL provides a voice for those who want to make a difference and for those voices who may otherwise be too soft to be heard. Promulgating equity since 1996 is a platform I can get behind and support with my entire being. Be YOU, be FAMILY, and be proud of it!” - Sir Tender, Ms. Great Plains Olympus Leather 2019, 2020



“The Great Plains Olympus Leather contest and title-holders strive to bring the region's Leather community to a place of equity. The times we live in are very segregated based on age, ability, race, gender, financial equity, and a vast many more qualifiers. To me, the work that GPOL does is give light and space to those who are shut out by the majority. I personally, as the first Mx (non-binary title) of Great Plains Olympus Leather, have gone to many events simply to be seen. By me being at events with the title, I have had so many meaningful conversations around gender. I want people who might be struggling with their gender identity to see me as a safe space to hash out their feelings and use me as a resource to further their gender journey. My main goal as a Mx. title-holder is visibility. I want people to see themselves in me and to feel validated in their existence. I want my presence to evoke feelings of acceptance and love. My secondary goal is to educate. I feel that, as a Mx. titleholder, it is my responsibility to correct people when they mis-gender me, someone else in my space, or attach a binary onto someone who does not identify this way. I encourage those who say they are trying to break themselves from binary language to commit to the emotional labor required to ensure inclusive language for all, as I have, and join me in confronting binary exclusiveness. Yes it’s hard work, but it’s necessary to move forward as a more diverse and accepting lifestyle.” -Maverick, Mx. Great Plains Olympus Leather 2019, 2020

Per the production staff, Great Plains Olympus Leather, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, has been postponed for the year of 2020, with plans to resume in 2021. Stay tuned for future updates and new date announcements! For more information, GPOL can be reached at greatplainsolympusleather.com, and on Facebook by searching “Great Plains Olympus Leather”.

COMMUNITY FLAGS: Bootblack Pride



After a two year debate within the community, on July 4th, 2005, Jesse ‘Spanky’ Penley came up with a design that would eventually become the accepted Boot Black Pride Flag. It made its premier at the International LeatherSir/ International Leatherboy weekend in Atlanta, GA on Oct 6th, 2005. Using the Leather Pride colors, Spanky used a diagonal stripe to differentiate from the leather pride flag.

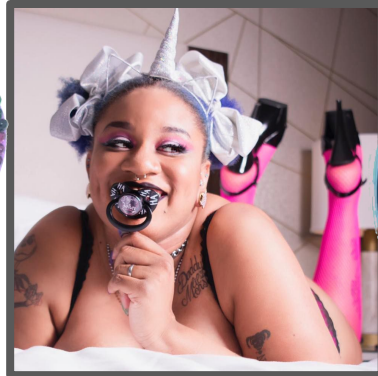
The flag only uses three stripes: two blue and one white. The width of the stripes signify the wide range of people who are and appreciate boot blacks. The unisex boot stands for the non-gender specific nature of boot blacking. The large red heart positioned behind the boot signifies the heart that the bootblack puts behind his or her boots.

NLA-DALLAS MERCHANT CALL: Crafty Litto Monstar

litto monstar is an owner and collared service sub/little that has been in the lifestyle for about 8 years. Crafty Litto Monstar is a small online shop for custom pacifiers and tutus. "We are a new business founded on the love and energy of it founder Calii "litto monstar" Reagor." Crafty Litto Monstar prides itself on great customer service and personal experience. Litto responds to each inquiry quickly and personally. All their orders are hand packaged with a little treat in each delivery. How fun is that? If you're gifting, CLM can include a hand-written, personalized message with your order. What would your little think of a present like this? Best yet, they now offer a 15% discount to NLA-Dallas members.



To contact Litto's Paci's, email CraftyLittoMonstar@gmail.com or on Facebook go to "Crafty Litto Monstar".



litto monstar (she/her)

Disclaimer: We seek to introduce our members to the wide variety of kink merchants, with no explicit or implicit endorsement by NLA-Dallas.



[DFW Sisters block the view of counter-protesters hackling those participating in the DFW Pride for Black Lives Matters rally and march on June 28, 2020](#)

- Photo courtesy of Nicholas Gonzalez for Dallas Voice

L-R: Sister Sasha Cochteze (he/him/Sister), Pastor Neil Thomas (he/him), John Erdos (he/him), Louis CJ (he/him) and Sister Sanita Lay (she/her/Novice Sister)
Photo taken by Sister Ginger Neutral (he/him/Sister)

Beyond Vanilla - A History In The Making (Cont'd from page 1)

Through the years, Beyond Vanilla has also served as the host to several contests for Bootblacks, the Pup community, to include International Pup/Handler, and Great Plains Olympus Leather. This year, Beyond Vanilla is excited to welcome the Inaugural Texas Power Exchange Contest (TXPE), which is planned as a feeder into the International Power Exchange Contest hosted by Beyond Leather.

TXPE is an inclusive contest open to power exchange relationships of any kind, established for at least one year. Contestants can be individuals, couples, or a triad of representatives of a poly power exchange relationship of any size.

Please note that Beyond Vanilla is committed to an anti-racist culture and has a zero-tolerance policy on racism and bigotry. Diversity and Inclusion are more than just words for us; they guide our approach to community and education as we welcome, embrace, and protect all participants, especially BIPOC, all colors of the Pride rainbow, and all flavors of kink. Our name, after all, is Beyond Vanilla!

"Some men may dress in leather; these and others may play with it. But leather is no affectation; it is an expression of the soul."

- Geoff Mains, *Urban Aboriginals: A Celebration of Leathersexuality*



Katrine (she/her)



Velvet Steele (she/her)



KinkyIrishCowboy (he/him)



Pup Kira (she/her)

Laughter in Leather

In a crowded city at a busy bus stop, a woman who was waiting for a bus was wearing a tight leather skirt. As the bus stopped and it was her turn to get on, she became aware that her skirt was too tight to allow her leg to come up to the height of the first step of the bus.

Slightly embarrassed and with a quick smile to the bus driver, she reached behind her to unzip her skirt a little, thinking that this would give her enough slack to raise her leg. Again, she tried to make the step only to discover she still couldn't.

So, a little more embarrassed, she once again reached behind her to unzip her skirt a little more. For the second time she attempted the step, and once again, much to her chagrin, she could not raise her leg. With a little smile to the driver, she again reached behind to unzip a little more and again was unable to make the step.

About this time, a large Texan who was standing behind her picked her up easily by the waist and placed her gently on the step of the bus. She went ballistic and turned to the would-be Samaritan and screeched, "How dare you touch my body! I don't even know who you are!" The Texan smiled and drawled, "Well, ma'am, normally I would agree with you, but after you unzipped my fly three times, I kinda figured we are friends."

"Leather Jokes" from upjoke.com/leather-jokes

NLA-DALLAS EYE ON ART: Shawn Ewert

Before 2012, I had never really considered picking up a paintbrush. For most of my life, I have been happy to spend my time behind the lens of a camera. Whether that was shooting weddings, still life, or figure studies, I love capturing moments of time the way I see them. While I still love to go out and shoot, the switch from film cameras to digital definitely marked a change for me.

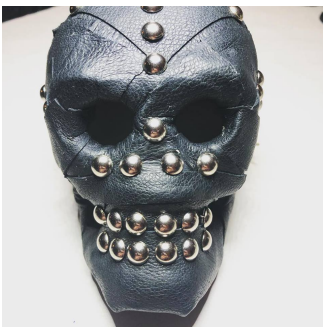
In 2012, I picked up my first set of paints, and a handful of brushes. Painting has offered me a way to create something, but also to decompress at the same time. After a drastic change in my work life, I felt the need to try my hand at new things in my creative life. I tend to lean more on queer/kink and dark/horror art, but have a hard time getting an idea in my head and not putting it on canvas, so I work with a wide variety of media and subject matter.

Through this journey, I've landed on a slightly different way of dealing with the issue of money. I don't price my Work. I would rather my work go to someone that really likes it. I don't like money being a barrier to that. I tell everyone that likes my stuff that they set the price. Whatever it's worth to them, and whatever they can afford to pay for it is the price. Money should not be a reason that someone cannot have art they enjoy. I would personally rather make a connection to the person that enjoys my work. There's no "insulting" me, there's no haggling. It's worked out great for me and for my patrons.




Shawn Ewert (He/Him)

- Artwork courtesy of Shawn Ewert ewertshawn@gmail.com)



Calendar of Lifestyle Events in the D/FW Area

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>July</i> 2020			1 7pm T-Bear Club Night	2 7pm DFW BOUND Intro to Rope 8pm Gurls Night Out	3 \$10 Kink For Charity \$10	4 9pm Rope Night 
5 1:30pm TGRA Dallas Chapter Monthly Meeting 3pm NTX Littles and Friends Meet-Up	6 7pm NLA-Dallas General Meeting (Election Time!) 	7 11:30am DFW Lunch Munch (Ft Worth) 7pm Kink or Bust:	8 7pm UCLSE Presents Game Night	9 7pm DFW Dominants Academy #7 8pm Social Thursday	10 10pm Discipline Corps Club Night	11 12pm Dallas Bears Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Orientation Night 6pm Ms. Leo 2020 Candidate Show 7pm "Merica. F*ck Yeah!" Dungeon Bash 7pm NLA-Dallas Bar Night 9pm \$10 Second Saturday
12 1pm Leather Heart Clan Leather Workshop 3pm UCLSE Monthly Membership Meeting	13	14 11:30 DFW Lunch Munch (Bedford) 7pm Kink or Bust:	15 8pm S.L.U.T.S. Club Night	16 8pm Members Free Night	17	18 5pm Gaybingo Dallas 5:30pm Introduction to BDSM/Kink 7pm TGRA 9pm Dallas Bears Club Night 10pm Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Club Night
19 3pm NTX Littles and Friends play date	20	21 11:30 DFW Lunch Munch (Ft Worth) 7pm Kink or Bust: 7:30 pm Lone Star boys of Leather	22 7pm UCLSE Club Night	23 8pm Littles Night	24 PolyDallas Millennium 5th Anniversary (Day 1 of 3) Spin the Compass Ride - cancelled Fourth Friday - cancelled 9pm After Fourth Friday Play Party	25 SAINTs July 25th Party
26 4pm Come See a Flick with DIK *Mulan*	27	28 11:30am DFW Lunch Munch (Bedford) 7pm Kink or Bust	29	30	31	

*Calendar events courtesy of [Make a Difference](#), [FetLife](#) and others. **To ensure your event is listed, please contact newsleather@googlegroups.com**



Interested in attending?
Interested in presenting?
Being a vendor? Volunteering?!?

Register at: BeyondVanilla.org

NEW Host Hotel
NEW Texas Power Exchange Contest
Two Steamy Burlesque Shows!

We are cumming...are you?