



# NewsLeather

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

**NLA - Dallas is about Education \* Activism \* Community**



Available until August 17th



## Leather Wisdom: Stonewall and PRIDE

The 50s and 60s were a difficult time to be homosexual, transexual, or any identity we now consider to fall under the LGBTQIA+ umbrella. McCarthyism branded homosexuals as security risks open to blackmail, the FBI and local police departments kept lists of known homosexuals and their hangouts. Homosexuality was listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual as a mental disorder. Police regularly raided, harassed, and closed down establishments catering to gay men and lesbians; and their patrons were exposed in newspapers, which could lead to being ostracized and loss of employment. As early as 1959 in Los Angeles, members of the queer community began pushing back. There are reports over the next decade of acts of civil disobedience, conflict with the police and business owners, and sporadic riots.

In the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, patrons of the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village had enough. Another police raid had broken the dam of fear, anger, and frustration, and members of the gay community in and around the Stonewall Inn spontaneously rose up and said, "enough!" It is said that seven police officers barricaded themselves inside to call for help, and a drag queen used a parking meter torn from the ground as a battering ram to break down the bar doors! Word spread, with the number of protesters and protests growing throughout the city over the next few days. The numbers of gay men, lesbians, people in drag, transgender people, and Leatherfolx stood shoulder to shoulder in numbers upwards of 1,000.



Continued on Page 3



Check out our online exclusive: **Spirits and Sticks**  
 Each issue we ask NLA-Members to offer their review of a whiskey (or other adult beverage) and a cigar pairing.

[Check it out!](#)

This issue is an Old Fashioned and Last Rites by Epic.

Exclusive Online Bonus:  
[Laurel Li's Cigar Pairing Rules!](#)

## **SPOTLIGHT ON BOOTBLACKS: Sparkie**

In this issue we have Sparkie (he/him) who's the producer of Bootblack Round Up, as well as Wisconsin Leather Pride Person of Leather 2020/2021. He came in as 1st runner up at International Mr. Boot Black in 2008 and 2nd runner up in 2019. Below he shares his passion for Bootblacking:

### **When did you realize you were a Bootblack?**

When I saw, looked, and smelled the product, the energy.

### **What does being a Bootblack mean to you?**

It means you're all about energy, people, their gear (leather & boots) and making it beautiful.

### **Do you have a title or desire to have one? If yes, please tell us more.**

Illinois Community Bootblack 2015, 1st runner up IMBB 2008, 2nd runner up IMBB 2019, Central Plains Leatherboy 2009, and Wisconsin Leather Pride Person of Leather 2020/2021

### **Tell us about your Bootblack journey. How did you get started?**

#### **Has it been a smooth one? Bumpy?**

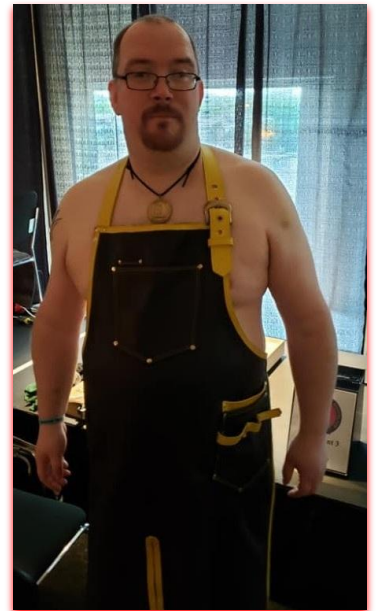
My journey has been a great one. I've learned and am still always learning. I started in San Francisco and went all over the United States. I've had mentors my whole life and now have mentee's. My journey has been smooth and non-bumpy.

#### **What's been a memorable experience you've had as a Bootblack?**

I have a lot of memorable experiences, but I would say that seeing my event Bootblack Round Up going further. It started as a small event as a fundraiser at the end of my title year in 2015 and has grown nationwide to help both people and charities.

#### **What advice would you give to someone who wants to be a Bootblack?**

To learn as much as you can, and never think you know everything.

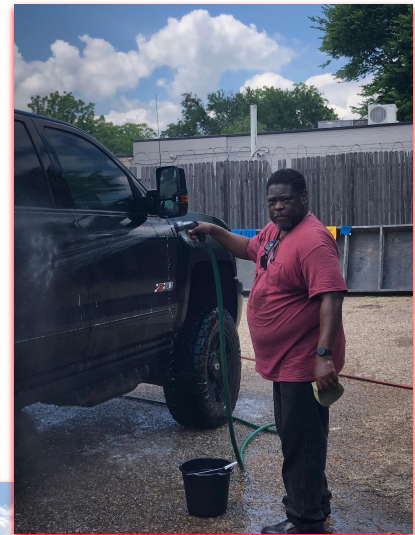


Sparkie (He/Him)

## **Recent Fundraiser: Results Are In!!!**



The Veterans Bike Wash (VBW) fundraiser held on May 29 and presented by House Cycle and NLA-Dallas, was a resounding success. A total of \$1846.61 was raised, enabling us to make a contribution of \$1480 to [22untilnone](#), a nonprofit that aims to reduce the number of veteran suicides by offering emergency financial assistance, help with VA benefits, help transitioning, advocacy, wellness services, and camaraderie.



TC  
(He/Him)



## Stonewall and PRIDE (continued from Page 1)

Accounts of the riots are numerous and varied - no one quite agrees on how it started, how it progressed, or even who was there. One thing is certain though: it served as a catalyst for a movement that proclaimed that the queer community should not have to live in fear or in the shadows. Groups began organizing to fight for just treatment and human rights both within society and before the law.

The first Pride march commemorating the riot occurred in 1970. Marchers numbered in the hundreds set off from Greenwich Village; and by the time they arrived in Central Park, their numbers had swelled to the thousands, far exceeding the expectations of the day's organizers. Chants of, "Say it clear and say it loud! Gay is good and Gay is proud," rang through the air as they marched. There were marches in LA, San Francisco, and Chicago. These early Pride events were gay liberation or gay freedom marches, precursors to the more celebratory events that would follow later.



Today we continue to commemorate the legacy of the Stonewall Riots every June with Pride month. As this year's Pride month comes to a close, we reflect on how far we have come and how far we have to go. The Stonewall riots loudly proclaimed that the queer community would no longer live in secrecy nor in shame, that they had the right to live their lives out loud. Forty years later to the day, the Rainbow Lounge in Ft. Worth was raided. Fifty-two years later, many of us are still fighting that same fight, both on our own behalf and on behalf of those who cannot raise their own voices. Let's tip our hats to those who paved the way and proudly raise our own Pride flags, not just in June but every day of the year.

Check out NLA-Dallas' online-only content called "In Play Today" with Trix Lotuswolf's article on [Safer Sex and BDSM](#)



## Kangaroo Leather in the US By Sur Absolem

To my friends and family in Leather, both known and unmet, I have been mulling this article over for a few days now, given that it is one of those topics that delves into politics, environmental issues, and animal rights issues. Any of those topics can trigger an argument in any crowd. Combined they make for a great soup of pissed off responses and opinions. However, some issues really do need to have a light shone on them to get a wider perspective on the issue which in this case is the recent [proposed bill to ban the import and sale of kangaroo leather](#) into the United States.

For background, the kangaroo is a non-domesticated marsupial primarily found in Australia and New South Wales. While they are damn cute and entertaining to watch, they have a tremendous negative environmental impact on the lands they are native to. Human intervention has removed their natural predators, while land clearing and agriculture have provided more foraging growth for them. In order to mitigate this environmental impact, the government strives to control the kangaroo population with a yearly cull ration, much like the hunting of the American alligator in the US, non-government employed hunters are issued permits to harvest the herds for sport, leather, and meat sales. Like culling policies in the US, following the policy guidelines have been

interpretational at best, horrific at worst. The reality though is that the culling policy has been in harsh conflict with farmers and ranchers who have shown a preference towards rasher means of control, even to the point of the eradication of the species as vermin and pets. Our forefathers acted similarly with wolves, bears, and coyotes in the late 1950's - 70's, using U.S. government supported poisoning operations. For more information, google "[environmental impact of kangaroos](#)" and "[kangaroo leather controversy](#)."



Continued on Page 6



Miss Velvet Steele  
(she/her)

## Dear Miss Velvet,

I recently started a new power exchange relationship with my Ma'am. Our connection is very deep and I feel lucky to belong to her. Though we are both involved in our community, I have more experience from previous power exchange relationships than she does (though this is my first time being on this side of the slash). While I am sure that she is more than capable of guiding me to be her slave, I want to find out what sort of things I can do to support her as she grows into her mastery. She encourages direct conversation and is a great listener, so I know that she is always eager to hear my thoughts. Letting her know what I'm am thinking, what I need, and what I want is the best way I know of to provide her with an owner's manual, but I wanted to find out if there is anything else I can do to always let her know that she's in charge and I will gladly follow.

Thank you for sharing your advice. Please sign me as,  
Love-that-Ma'am

## Dear Love-that-Ma'am,

Congratulations on your new dynamic and finding someone you connect with so strongly. Switching sides to surrender to someone with less experience can be quite rewarding, but it will certainly present challenges for you both.

Communication will be your key. Since she has demonstrated an openness to hearing your thoughts, continue to share them as they relate to your wants and needs as well as anything related to safety or minimizing risk. Rather than offering specific requests or advice on how you can serve her, general discussions of practices and philosophies will give her tools to carry with her as she follows her own path to mastery.

Make sure you both understand what each of you is offering the other. Do you know what her expectations are of you and how she wants to lead you? Does she know what being her slave means to you and how you imagine serving her? Knowing that will inform the decisions she makes.

Finally, embrace the opportunity to learn new ways of doing things, and demonstrate your trust in her vision by following her lead. Be mindful of when it is appropriate and important to follow without question and when you can better support her by offering pertinent information. Keep in mind that while she is learning to lead, it is your task to learn to follow, even (especially) when her way differs from yours.



*Miss Velvet Steele (she/her/hers), is a cis-het Leatherwoman who has gathered a lifetime of experiences and insights she will gladly share. Whatever advice you are seeking, she will make sure that you love it even when you don't like it.*

**Have a question for Miss Velvet? Email her at [Connect@DearMissVelvet.com](mailto:Connect@DearMissVelvet.com)**

## **NLA-DALLAS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: rebel**

Have you met rebel yet? If not, rebel is a sweet leathergirl pig and unowned slave, who was gifted an NLA-Dallas membership by a previous partner who knew she wanted to get more involved in the Leather community. Once a rebel with no cause, her cause has now been found: rebellion in Leather, Light, and Love against society's normal programming, the mundane, and judgement. "Growth and Service are my strong passions because both help me get closer to my vision, and Leather is my life and spiritual passion because it helps me improve myself greatly." NLA-Dallas feels like home for her because of all the people who have welcomed her into their lives, embracing her like family and encouraging her to truly be her very best piggy self. she identifies as an unowned leathergirl pig slave, which she describes as being dirty and nasty not only of mind and play but also of life.

rebel's first experience with Leather was during her time as an apprentice in the Dallas submissive Mentors Program (DsMP). New to the lifestyle from the swinger/rope community, she was looking for ways to learn. In her search for mentoring, she found the DsMP and completed the program in 2018, an experience which she says changed her life forever. When asked about her most recent memorable moment in Leather, she recalls a small private event in the fall of 2020 where her life was impacted in such an enormous way that it led to her rededication to the community and her path. You may have seen rebel recently sporting a shaven head. In having it shaved, she gave herself back to the community in a humbling and connective way that demonstrates her unconditional love for the community she serves.

In her daily life, rebel loves spending time with her children, watching them grow, and teaching them about self-love, something she did not learn as a child. Music heals her heart and soul when she is troubled, and settling in with a good book allows her to escape her troubles while educating herself. From her newfound knowledge, she hopes to be a resource for others while simultaneously building a reality from which she wishes never to feel the need to escape. rebel is a kind person with a strong heart who has a penchant for loving people without judgement or conditions. she shines in her service and surrender to the queer, the darkness, and the discomfort of growth. she can often be found smoking cigars at events and lighting up a space with her oinks of laughter. If you haven't had the chance to meet her yet, make sure you say howdy!



rebel (she/her)

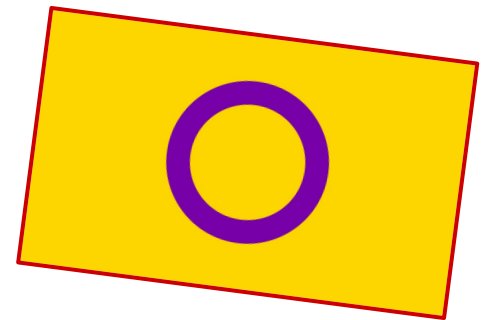


**“Live to the point of tears.” -Albert Camus**

## **COMMUNITY FLAGS: Intersex Flag**

Today in flags of the community we come to the Intersex Flag. Like many of our pride flags, this sexuality has had more than one flag made as well. The first version of this flag, originally named the Bigender Flag, was released in 2009 and designed by Natalie Phox. It consists of 5 horizontal lines colored (from top to bottom) lavender, white, a double width gradient from blue to pink, white and lavender. The gradient represents the range of sexes between male and female and the lavender represents a combination of those traits.

The more widely adopted yellow and purple banner (2013) was created by Morgan Carpenter of Intersex Human Rights of Australia, in the desire to have something that "is not derivative, but is firmly grounded in meaning." The circle emblem and yellow field don't just avoid referencing gender stereotypes but completely avoid gender altogether. The flag utilizes yellow and purple which are considered the "hermaphrodite" colors, according to the organization. The center circle is "unbroken and unornamented symbolizing wholeness and completeness and our potentialities."



Intersex people are born with the variations of the physical sex characteristics that don't fit medical or social norms for male or female bodies. Intersex variations can be determined prenatally, at birth, at puberty, or when trying to reproduce. Intersex people may have any sex assignment, orientation, or gender identity and tend to face human rights violations before most people have agency to freely express an identity.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT for JUNE: **Central Texas Darkside**



In June, our community spotlight was Central Texas Darkside (CTX Darkside) which is an inclusive Leather group based out of Killeen, TX, led by Sir Dee Bear and Sir Rey Soju. The group holds two eagerly anticipated events each year. In July, they host the CTX BBQ; and in November, they host the CTX Spanksgiving. Each of these weekend events presents a variety of classes and hosts The Texas Annex of the Carter Johnson Library. One highlight is always the closing brunch where folks reminisce about the weekend and make plans to return.

People new and old to the Leather community attend these events, where they are always sure to find a bootblack or two to give their leathers some love. This year's CTX BBQ is sold out, but be sure to keep an eye out for 2021's Spanksgiving.

**Picnic in the Park**



boy don (he/him)

**OKLF  
2021**

## Kangaroo Leather in the US (continued from Page 3)

Now why does this have me up in the morning typing instead of relaxing on my back porch with my coffee? More precisely, why is this matter something I feel should be talked about by the Leather community? It is about the leather of course; kangaroo leather is some of the strongest, most abrasion resistant, and softest of leathers all rolled into one package. As a Leatherman, leather crafter, and whip slinger, I have long known that kangaroo leather is both beautiful and strong, with the power to accomplish what other materials would be torn apart and destroyed by. A whip made of kangaroo leather isn't just subtle enough to roll out and form a perfectly flowing wave, it is also strong enough to then take the incredible power that is generated as the wave rolls over and turns into a sonic booming crack and returns over and over for more without damage.

I have only one kangaroo whip so far, and I admit I have a craving to collect and use more of them. While synthetic materials make for very nice, well-functioning whips and flogging tools, they are all ultimately compared to how they perform in contrast to a kangaroo leather version. There is a good reason for this comparison - it is the gold standard in leather for whip making materials; so, the passage of this bill would be a bit of a kick to the kneecap of my hopes to have and use what whip makers around the world create in their artistry of leather.

Is this proposed ban just another example of the 'we don't like that, so you can't have it either' mentality in which one side of a topic deems they are right to decide for others what is best, with little real interest in the facts or realities of the topic beyond their opinion? Pretty much so in my view. What does this mean for whip enthusiasts and people of leather? It means that we have to stay educated on the topics and let our political figures know what we think of these matters.

## CLUBS AND CHARITIES SPOTLIGHT: FORT WORTH LEATHER

### CORPS

Fort Worth Leather Corps made its debut in August 2017 with a kick-off presentation delivered by Master David Walker at Buffalo West Restaurant on Camp Bowie Boulevard. The first gathering, well attended by many who'd been active in both Leather and kink, outlined its multifaceted mission of building an earned patch Honor Club that supports Veterans, fundraising, and serves as a teaching resource for other local groups, charities, and people. Soon after its inception, ownership of the close-knit family-like club was passed over to current leader Master Tolly. Over the years, Fort Worth Leather Corps members and prospects have attended multiple events where they have displayed the Texas Annex of the Carter Johnson Library and Collection for the community to enjoy. Although reading and research has largely moved to online platforms, there's just something extra special about physically touching pieces of history like the Lucifer papers, immersing yourself in passages from classical erotica like The Marketplace series, and browsing the memorabilia of those who paved the way before us. The primary method used to continue developing the Club's activity has been fundraising with locally hosted garage sales, a recycling initiative, and accepting donations from those wishing to propel their mission forward. In the future, they plan to provide holiday dinners to Veterans that cannot make it home.

As a smaller group, everyone gets to know each other really well. They host monthly meetings, public munches at local venues, and annual celebrations that are open to the entire family. Every year, they typically have an anniversary party, a get together for holidays, and educational opportunities. For further information, please visit them at [Ftworthleathercorp.com](http://Ftworthleathercorp.com), [Instagram](#), or [FetLife](#).



*Never again landfill. Never again flames.*

*"Spank me, whip me,  
let me come back home.  
Break out  
the leather, Baby."  
-Ray Parker, Jr.*

# Lifestyle in the D/FW Area

*July & August*  
2021

## NLA-Dallas General Meeting 7/5//21 & 8/2/21

NLA-Dallas hosts a general meeting for current and prospective members. The brief business portion is followed by a presentation on a relevant topic. Community Spotlight is a brief discussion early in the meeting on a mini topic or brief introduction to groups which serve our community.

## NLA-Dallas Bar Night 7/10/21 & 8/14/21

This is for both members and non-members to come out, meet up, and support our local Leatherfolx! We will be changing it up so check out our website for updates. July will be held at [The Hidden Door](#) from 7-10pm. We'll have a few drinks, smoke a few cigars, and just enjoy the company of leatherfolk and other good people for the evening. Whatever your plans, add NLA-Dallas Bar Night to them every second Saturday of the month!

## Lifestyle Calendars

- [Make A Difference](#)
- [Fetlife Events](#)
- [Facebook Events](#)
- [UCLSE Calendar](#)
- [NLA-Dallas Calendar](#)
- [The Dallas Eagle](#)
- [The Dallas Bears](#)
- [Discipline Corps](#)

## Lifestyle Munch Opportunities

- [Collin County Kinksters \(CCK\) Munch](#)
- [ClubFEM Munch](#)
- [DFW Lunch Munch](#)
- [Fourth Friday DFW](#)
- [Leather, Lace & Kink Munch](#)

## Local Play Spaces

- [DFW Dungeon](#)
- [Infliction Hall](#)
- [The Hidden Door](#)
- [The Dallas Eagle](#)

## Lifestyle Groups In the Area

There are a gazillion lifestyle groups in the DFW area. We are working on an extensive list and below are just a handful of the fantastic active groups.

- [AMOK Play Party](#)
- [Bottoms Up](#)
- [ClubFEM DFW](#)
- [Collin County Kinksters](#)
- [Dallas Bears](#)
- [Dallas Enforced Feminization Training \(DEFT\)](#)
- [DFW Dominants Academy](#)
- [DFW Littles](#)
- [DFW Texas Rope Group](#)
- [DFW-Link](#)
- [Discipline Corps](#)
- [Edge To Ecstasy](#)
- [Erotic Rope Dojo \(ERD\)](#)
- [Ft. Worth Leather Corps](#)
- [Kink Friendly Professionals](#)
- [Kink or Bust](#)
- [Lone Star boys of Leather](#)
- [NLA-Dallas](#)
- [NTX Littles and Friends](#)
- [Onyx Lone Star](#)
- [Onyx: Central SW Chapter](#)
- [Parker County Kinksters \(PCK\)](#)
- [Sensual Invitations to Lifestyle Kink \(SILK\)](#)
- [Smoke & Mirrors DFW](#)
- [Submissive's corner](#)
- [Texas Gay Rodeo Association \(TGRA\)](#)
- [Temple of Pain \(TOP\)](#)
- [TNG DFW](#)
- [United Court of the Lone Star Empire \(UCLSE\)](#)
- [Women in Control of Kink & Dominance \(WICK'D\)](#)

## Lifestyle Educational Conferences & Contests

\*Conference listed in red/Contest listed in teal

- [Vision](#) (January)
- [FLAME](#) (February)
- [South Plains Leatherfest](#) / [Int'l Master/slave Contest](#) (March)
- [THRIVE](#) (April)
- [Beyond Leather](#) / [Int'l Power Exchange Contest](#) (May)
- [OK Leatherfest](#) / [Heartland Person of Leather Contest](#) + [SW Master Slave Contest](#) + [SW Region Bootblack Contest](#) (May)
- [Uprise! Welcome to the Dawn](#) (July)
- [OK Kink Weekend](#) / [Route 66 Contest](#) (July)
- [GWNN Bash](#) (July)
- [The Circle: Voices Seldom Heard](#) (August)
- [Beyond Vanilla](#) / [TXPE Contest](#) (October)
- [Kink U](#) (Ongoing education)

*With many thanks from your community NewsLeather Staff  
KinkyIrishCowboy, Miss Velvet Steele, Sir\_Tender,  
Trix Wolf, boy don, and Todd!  
[newsleather@googlegroups.com](mailto:newsleather@googlegroups.com)*