



NewsLeather

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

NLA - Dallas is about Education * Activism * Community



We asked. You answered. We listened.

Beyond Vanilla has always been a community driven event. The community and our stakeholders overwhelmingly said they wanted an in-person event. We are excited to announce that Beyond Vanilla XXX will be held in person on October 1-3, 2021. We will carefully adhere to the CDC's highest guidelines, and the host hotel has committed to continuing to follow strict COVID sanitizing protocols. We look forward to seeing you there. [Click here for Early Bird registration!](#)



NLA-Dallas Recent Fundraisers - Our Results Are In!!!

Butter Braids Fundraiser: The recent **Butter Braid Pastry Fundraiser** was a huge success, thanks to the hardwork and dedication of The Boys - Rusty, Jimmy & Yami. We sold 94 scrumptious items resulting in a whopping \$488 profit. Because of this success, **NLA-Dallas was able to donate \$350 to [The Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund \(GDMAF\)](#) (see [Page 6](#)).** The remaining \$138 will go to our general fund. Again, thank you for your support!

GrownA__Woman Gets Tickled Pink: This once-in-a-lifetime fundraising event happened on April 10th. The ingenious GrownA__Woman (all around badass) and the incredibly talented GalateaV (tickle torture teacher extraordinaire) turned this limit-blasting negotiated scene into a money-raising benefit for NLA-Dallas. After all, who doesn't love the idea of tickle torture for a great cause?! Sir Tender held the winning ticket to co-Top in this incredible event. GrownA__Woman and GalateaV's selflessness allowed us to raise an initial \$290 with raffle tickets and donations, but **an unbelievably generous dollar-for-dollar match resulted in a grand total of \$580.** GalateaV shared that GrownA__Woman is indeed a true badass! Unfortunately if you missed it, GrownA__Woman has moved tickling to a permanent hard limit. Thank you beyond measure to all who participated for the love and support that flowed so freely on that unforgettable night!

A huge shoutout to the T.O.P. leadership for allowing us to use their group night which, fittingly, kicked off with a Leather culture panel presentation!

VBW - Veterans, Bike, Wash: Please mark your calendars for our next awesome fundraiser presented by House Cycle and NLA-Dallas benefitting 22untilnone and Cigars for Warriors! Saturday, May 29th from 1 - 5 pm at 3129 Erie St, Ft. Worth, TX (the old Underground Cigar Shop.) Click [here](#) for the Facebook info.

Come and  **VOTE** on 6/7/21 - Annual EC Elections



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 Excalibur and Paleta de Mango.

Leather Wisdom: Event Planning Considerations

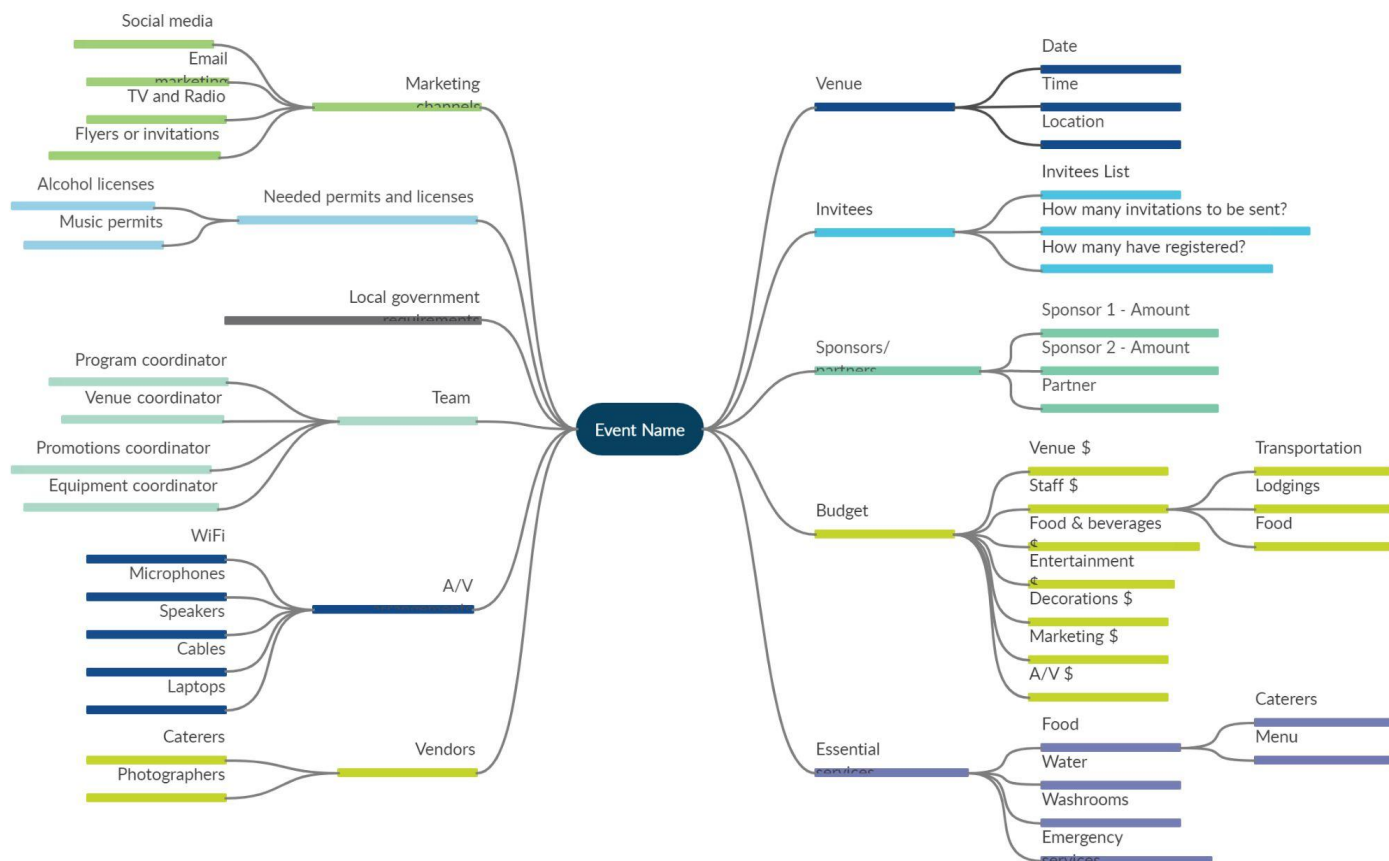
Creating any gathering is not as easy as people may believe. Any well-thought-out successful event has been in the planning phases for at least 4 months and sometimes over one year. Whether planning a small fundraiser or a large multi day conference, well-thought-out details, carefully designed advertising, and creative promotion of word-of-mouth buzz will help it reach its full potential. Months of planning goes into preparations; and although a fabulous soiree CAN be planned by one person, having a team or committee to focus on specific details is recommended to keep your sanity.

Logistics planning is diminished with virtual events and things that don't require either hunting for the who-what-where-how or assembling a mass audience, but it is hard to capture any audience and hold undivided attention. A small scale event *can* be pulled together in 30-90 days; though with last minute planning, marketing may not be as broad and attendance may be lower than expected. In-person events require hunting down a venue that has the desired date available, securing a contract, and confirming with key players before creating "save-the-date" marketing materials to publish, post, or distribute.

Timelines are necessary in logistical planning, and it is *very important* to choose an event date that doesn't conflict with other major events or holidays. Publicizing as soon as possible signals your claim to that date for other event organizers, as well as providing attendees time to plan to attend. SOME people are spontaneous but many plan their chosen events and budgets by the year. Some people budget their charitable giving the same way. Giving attendees time to decide to attend and where they want to contribute will maximize both attendee numbers and donation dollars.

Larger conferences that require obtaining contracts, insurance, vendors, entertainers, volunteers, and presenters can take anywhere from 4 to 12 months to coordinate depending on if it is a new event or one that is being repeated. A repeated conference has a mold in place, so decisions tend to center around what worked, what didn't, and what needs to change about it based on past experience. It may not be necessary to hunt for a venue, vendors, or sponsors if everything worked and contracts can be easily renewed or repeated for next year.

"[In fundraising]... Remember, word of mouth is gold.." -- Ms. Navia



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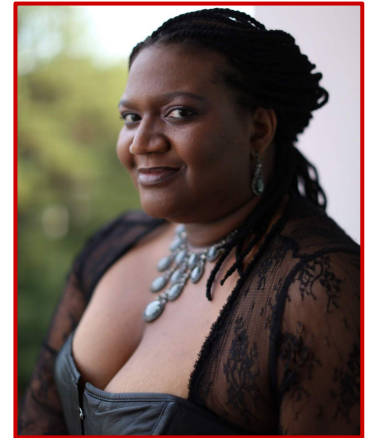
About Fundraisers...One of the things to consider when you are planning a new fundraiser is that having a cause is great, but having a theme is key. Engaging themes that people will find interesting, fun, or of value tie their experience to their reasons for helping. Every bake sale, raffle, or silent auction has the potential to bring in cash; but a fun, catchy theme gets the attendees in the door to donate the cash. Consider offering incentives to encourage and include donors who cannot be present as well. Pick a theme that can engage key groups in participating, and they will bring their members. Remember, word of mouth is gold.

One caution regarding a theme: there is a tendency to go haywire planning coordinating details of that luau or dance-a-thon, but a fundraiser's cost should NOT exceed funds raised. Yes, spending money to make money is a thing; but donations, sponsorship, and volunteers are key components of fund development, and it takes time to acquire these. Having all decorations, trinkets, and food donated means it doesn't come out of YOUR pocket and more is claimed for the cause. This necessitates taking several months to seek sponsors - organizations, stores, and community members - who will donate not only money but also in-kind donations like giveaways, prizes, and food donations. Those donation requests for 10 cases of water, gift certificates, and popcorn machine rental may require store management to get approval that can take weeks to get approved, so *plan ahead*.

In summary, the key things to remember are to make a plan way in advance, set a timeline, find a strong team, ask for what you need from others, and have a successful event.

About the Author-

Ms. Navia is a Leatherwoman in the Dallas Community. She has a strong event planning and entertaining fetish after a past career as a professional fundraising and event coordinator for several national non-profit agencies. She dabbles in event coordination for kink related events around the US.



Ms. Navia (she/her)

Did You Know...NLA-Dallas features online-only content called "In Play Today"?
Check out Trix Lotuswolf's articles on [Cell Popping!](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON LITTLES:

TragedyJane

How and when did you find your little?

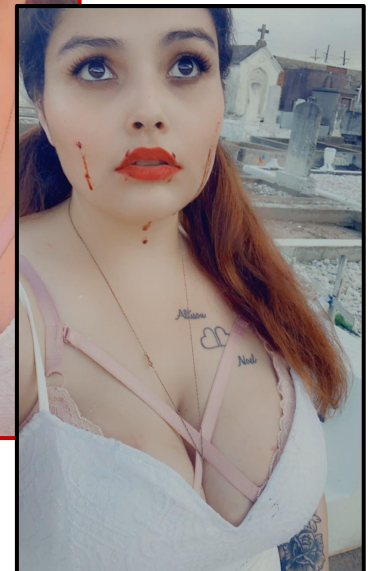
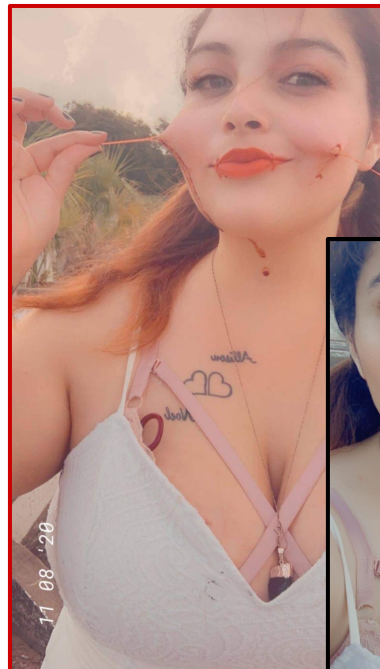
TJ: I first started exploring my little side when I started talking to a big. Originally I did it as role play situation but the more I did little activities the more I realized that I had a little headspace. Now it's a very big part of my daily life.

What are your favorite activities?

TJ: Switching back and forth between musicals and gory movies, coloring, rough body play and fear play both as a bottom and a top, making comfy pillow/blanket pits.

What advice do you have for new littles/biggs?

TJ: Look out for the things that put you into that headspace no matter how momentary it is. Everyone is different and everyone's headspace is different. It's ok if what makes your little/big happy or come out isn't the same as everyone else.



TragedyJane
(Instead of pronouns, use Jane)



Miss Velvet Steele
(she/her)

Dear Miss Velvet,

Like so many others, this pandemic is causing me bouts of emotional turmoil. Between sustained unemployment and financial instability, home responsibilities, PE relationship expectations, and community involvement, I'm having a difficult time processing all the "things" that are expected of me. How do I regroup in order to be a better leader, support-person to others, and move on with life accepting the here and now? My community involvement helps keep me focused, and I know that I need to lead by example. How can I do that when I'm personally struggling myself?

Sincerely,
Needs-a-strategy

Dear Needs,

Things are difficult all around right now. The world has shifted in extraordinary ways, but we continue to try to live our lives as if they haven't. One difficult aspect of these times is that we are forced to take a fearless look at what is important to us and adjust our energy expenditures accordingly. While looking inward to find strength for others is laudable, it is also important to do things to bolster your own resilience.

Start with small things that give you a feeling of accomplishment. Make your bed. Brush your teeth. Get dressed for the day. Share encouraging memes, even ones you might not be able to fully embrace yourself. Spend time outside inhaling peaceful thoughts and exhaling stress and discouragement. Don't be afraid of tears when they arise. Love on your furry friends, if you have them, and absorb their joy of receiving your attention. Carve out time for activities that feed your soul, even if it's only 5 minutes. While these things won't right this topsy-turvy world, they will give small boosts and structure to your day that you might find comforting.

Set aside some time to reflect on your true priorities right now. Embrace those and recommit at a manageable level. Additionally, seek opportunities for you to step back and/or for others to step up. Make a plan to ease those commitments for the time being. Consider who is in your life who can support you, even as you offer them support, and reach out for a virtual or in person cup of coffee, according to your risk profile. Finally, give yourself grace to redefine what is expected of you, keeping in mind that your ability to perform is dependent upon where you are emotionally and spiritually at any given time. Even the strongest among us are somewhat fragile at the moment; sometimes leading by example means acknowledging that reality.



Miss Velvet Steele (she/her/Ma'am), 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 DearMissVelvet@gmail.com

NLA-DALLAS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: **boy don**

boy don (he/him) considers himself a gay Leatherman, a Tom's Men (a devotee of the work of Tom of Finland), and a Leather submissive boy with slave tendencies and prisoner fantasies. His first introduction to Leather was a gay magazine, probably Drummer, in which the photos, stories, and "slave wanted" classifieds left him both aroused and enthralled. Since then, boy don has enjoyed learning about the richly diverse history of the Leather lifestyle. He values the opportunity to be different, yet himself, as part of a larger sub-culture that he describes as, "respectful, supportive, protective and nurturing of its members." He also loves that when it comes to dressing up, he gets to indulge in the look, feel, smell, and touch of leather or rubber!

boy don first came out publicly at The Butchmanns Experience (Master/slave training), which would prove to be his most memorable Leather experience. He fondly reminisces of the night he was restrained in a straightjacket and locked in a cage for the night. To this day, bondage is one of his top kink passions. He finds he wants to struggle, squirm, scream, suffer, and know that he cannot escape, forcing him to succumb to helplessness and submit. Indeed, he feels most alive when bottoming, which offers him the chance to totally surrender his mind and body.

boy don was originally drawn to NLA-Dallas as a place to network with other Kinksters, serve his Leather community, and have fun learning while expressing his Leather side. What he has found is a home where he says, "Everyone, and I do mean this, everyone is so welcoming, supportive and non-judgmental. They all make me feel valued and appreciated." He supports NLA-Dallas' work in helping the local Leather community flourish while it simultaneously encourages personal growth and learning. He would like to see more newcomers to Leather and kink overcome their fears and join NLA-Dallas and get involved. "My greatest regret," reports boy don, "is that I personally waited so long before getting involved with making my life and this world better."

In his downtime, boy don greatly enjoys nude sunbathing, which he reports to be both relaxing and recharging. He finds nature to be diversely wonderful and intriguing, but also enjoys the indoors where he can browse the internet for all the possibilities and experiences others share with the world. Next time you see him on Zoom or at an event, be sure to say hello and ask him about some of what he has learned!



boy don (he/him)

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

COMMUNITY FLAGS: **International Bear Brotherhood**



[Bear Kink Flag Tapestry](#)

There are a number of flags representing the Bear community. The International Bear Brotherhood Flag was designed to represent the Brotherhood of Bears which is composed of Gay men, typically marked with an abundance of hair on their face, chest, and body.

The International Bear flag was designed by Craig Byrnes in 1995, though there is much debate about Mr. Byrnes' claim as the creator and copyright holder. The colors represent the fur colors and nationalities of bears throughout the world and the flag was designed with inclusivity in mind.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT For MARCH:

GDMAF - Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund



David Hearn
Founder and Treasurer of GDMAF

Click here to
donate and
support GDMAF

In March, our community spotlight focused on The Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund (GDMAF). The Boys - Rusty, Jimmy & Yami - spearheaded an NLA-Dallas fundraiser in which we were able to help support the [Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund](#) and [NLA-Dallas!](#) Because of this success, **NLA-Dallas was able to donate \$350 to GDMAF. In addition, a portion of our [NLA-Dallas Limited Edition Beyond Vanilla mask](#) sales will be given to GDMAF.**

The Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund was named in honor of our friend who died of AIDS in 1994. Despite his personal devastation by HIV, Greg taught us all strength and courage through volunteering at various AIDS organizations and helping those less fortunate than himself. GDMAF works through various AIDS services organizations to provide financial assistance of last resort to those with HIV/AIDS in ways that agencies are unable. Since 1996, GDMAF has assisted over 3,000 clients and disbursed more than \$500,000 to meet needs such as rent, medication co-pays, rent or utility deposits and emergency payments to avoid loss of utilities..Each application is reviewed on a case-by-case basis with assistance going to those with the greatest immediate need, funding permitted.

GDMAF benefiting agencies:

AIDS Arms, AIDS Services of Dallas, Resource Center Dallas, Health Services of North Texas and AIDS Services of Dallas and Parkland.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT For APRIL:

The Carter/Johnson Library & Collection

In April, our community spotlight focused on The Carter/Johnson Library & Collection, a collective history of various communities who have chosen to live and love differently. The Library is chartered to bring this history to the communities that it serves. Its mission is to create an interactive relationship with the stories from the past and the present, linking them to future generations. The Library's origins are in Oklahoma, where Mama Vi Johnson and Jill Carter began keeping things people usually throw away - magazines, programs, books, photos - adding to those already accumulated from their own journey. They found people asking to see them and realized these things were the resources for the next generation to learn about their history.

2 buildings and 2 moves later, The Library's collection fills 2 buildings in Evansville, Indiana, in addition to 7 annexes in 6 US cities and 2 countries. Fundraisers, swag, and being the beneficiary of various events through the years have made it possible for The Library to provide scholarships for visiting scholars.

The Library's collection includes thousands of leather, fetish, S/M, kink and alternate sexuality books, magazines, posters, art, newspapers, ephemera and memorabilia dating back to the 1700's. It is designed to put people in touch with their history by allowing them to hold it, read it, smell it and know it.

Click here to see Items
needed by the library



Leather History Conference (above) and
Baltimore Annex (below)



Tentative - 8/14/21 - "Voices Seldom Heard" Virtual Conference by CJLC

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: Goddess Inkwell

"I have this idea of body painting as a sensually sadistic process during which the painter and the painted dance an S&M tango." ~ Goddess Inkwell

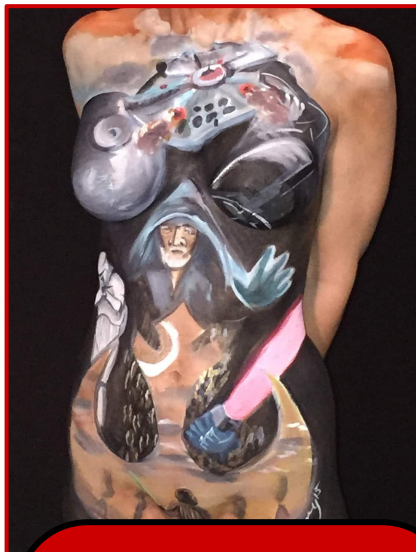
Vonetta Berry aka Goddess Inkwell has talent in droves that draws people to her. She began painting on skin at age 12 for a birthday party, she carried on through high school, was featured at Six Flags, graduated from the Art Institute in Chicago with a BFA in Illustration and Animation, and was even the recipient of 2nd place honors in the MFAH CityWide African American Artist Awards of 2012. She decided to pursue full Body Art when she became pregnant with her first child.

Goddess Inkwell's paintings tie into kink life through a series of Kitterflies and Caterpenises which emerged from Erotic body painting events she's held in kink spaces. She sees body painting as a sensually sadistic process during which the painter and the painted dance an S&M tango. As a Domme, she enjoys the reaction she gets from painting a restrained body, and she offers Painted Taints as a specialized service for deserving submissives.

A full body painting usually takes about 4-8 hours depending on details and the crew she has with her. A few human canvases have become repeat volunteers because they love the feeling and the exhibition, and yes, she even has had clients orgasm. Aspiring canvases must be comfortable being nude and in paint. Those who hire her get to choose what is painted on them, but volunteers are under Goddess' thumb.

Goddess Inkwell has some advice for those seeking to become body painters: "Practice, practice, practice," she says, "and document your own practice." Additionally, she suggests joining face and body painting meetup and Facebook groups to share ideas. Because acrylic feels awful on the skin and cracks a lot, she advocates the use of body safe makeup for body painting. "Practicing on a variety of bodies, sizes, shapes, complexions, shades, and gender expressions is important," she advises. "It will open the mind to creative solutions and will help budding artists master the medium sooner. Not to mention, they will shine in a sea of less versatile body artists."

If you see any of the Goddess' creations please take the time to enjoy and explore them but always remember to ask permission to touch first. You can contact Goddess Inkwell at abcbodyart.com.



Click here to Email
Goddess Inkwell

#UNLEASHYOUR

WILD
SIDE

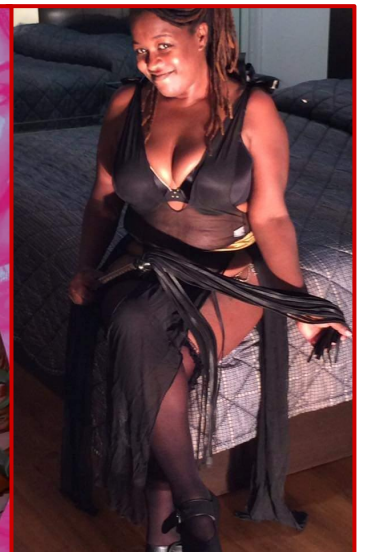
ABC

BODY ART

EMAIL

INFO@ABCBODYART.COM

TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT



Goddess Inkwell
(she/her)

Lifestyle in the D/FW Area

May & June
2021

NLA-Dallas General Meeting 5/3/21 & 6/7/21

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. **June meeting will be NLA-Dallas Board Elections!** Contact [Charles](#) to confirm your membership status!

NLA-Dallas Bar Night 5/8/21 & 6/12/21

This is for both members and non-members to come out, meet up, and support our local Leather and Levi bar – The Dallas Eagle! 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 great thanks from your community NewsLeather Staff
KinkyIrishCowboy, Miss Velvet Steele, Patience, Sir Tender and Trix Wolf
newsleather@googlegroups.com*