



# NewsLeather

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

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

## A Review of BV Online

Attendees at Beyond Vanilla Online on October 3, 2020, were treated to a smorgasbord of kinky information and fun conversation. A couple of classes had wow moments that got us excited and ready for more. Master TC ended his Negotiation class with a demo that left us all reaching for our fans and praying to our gods the scene actually happens when we are nearby, and Doctor Bubbles and KitKat Ann's look at Fear Play culminated with a surprise mini scene that clearly demonstrated the difference between surprise and suspense. Beginning our journey in exploring the gender spectrum, Maverick introduced us to some of their friends who showed us unequivocally that one's parts do not always define one's gender and that assumptions based on appearances can be way off base. Lee Harrington's thought provoking exploration of Intentional Relationship Design was interwoven with his signature melange of spiritual appreciation and pragmatic application.

Throughout the day, classes alternated with pre-recorded videos to keep the educational opportunities going. Butterscotch's enthusiasm for tea service shined brightly as she walked us through her take on tea. Ursus' demonstration of a bar shine gave us a glimpse into the world of the bootblacking, offering something for those interested in being a bootblack, as well as those who seek out their service. Fred illuminated the world of cigars and cigar service for attendees, information that was later put to good use at the post-event hybrid virtual and in-person Beyond Vanilla After Dark. Before we were off to enjoy our own cigars, though, we were treated to illusions and comedy by the inimitable Hardy Haberman.

Thanks to the Beyond Vanilla committee for producing this wonderful event. I walked away more informed, having met some new folkx, and ready to put what I learned into action. Now I can't wait for Beyond Vanilla XXX, October 1-3, 2021! Registration is available at [BeyondVanilla.org](http://BeyondVanilla.org). - Miss Velvet Steele



[BeyondVanilla.org](http://BeyondVanilla.org)  
- it's where to  
purchase your  
ticket, darling..

Dear Community Members,

This writing is about politics, but it isn't. It's a plea to ask you to go vote - both in our upcoming NLA-Dallas Special Election as well as the upcoming government elections. Locally, we need your participation, be it with NLA-Dallas or any of the other lifestyle groups in this area. Regardless of what your beliefs are, we need your help in keeping things afloat. One huge take away from my experience in the lifestyle is that **one voice, one vote, can make a difference** when it's combined with others who also have our best interests at heart. Do you want to make a difference in your local community? It starts with YOU: be the change you want to see. Go seek out those organizations that already exist; they need your passion, your drive, your dedication to help push the local movement forward. There are lots of local groups right here in Dallas who would welcome you into their efforts. I happen to be a current co-chair of one: NLA-Dallas. It's been around for almost 30 years. Did you know we are still active and working to help make a better future for everyone? We cannot do it alone. We need your help. NLA-Dallas holds annual elections for officers and directors in place to shape our efforts. If you are a member, you can cast your vote for the nomination of your choice... There are other local groups you can look into: Trinity River Bears, Dallas Discipline Corps, the UCLSE, DFW Team Friendly, SSC Fund, GWNN, ... oh, the list goes on and on. These groups really want your input and assistance to help create a better world now and for all of our futures. Get out there and make your voice heard! And you know what else, your vote counts in all elections! Vote as if your life depended on it, because it does!

In Leather & service,  
Sir\_Tender  
NLA-Dallas Co-Chair

Ms. Great Plains Olympus Leather 2019-2020

Follow me on: Facebook [@MsGPOL20192020](https://www.facebook.com/MsGPOL20192020) and Instagram: [tender\\_sherry](https://www.instagram.com/tender_sherry)

**Vote!**

## NLA-DALLAS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Dan Perry

Next time you are at an NLA-Dallas meeting, be sure to listen for the voice of reason and look for the man with the impressive gray beard; there you are sure to find longtime member Dan Perry. Before you get to know him, his firm grasp of Robert's Rules of Order and Leather history and seeming knowledge of where all the bodies are buried can be a bit intimidating. Until you notice the twinkle in his eye. He keeps us on track when it's time for business, but when it's time to let our hair down, a seat near him will reward you with conversation, both entertaining and educational. Dan's passion for hugs, conversation, and bonding are evident in his interactions and community involvement.



Dan Perry (he/him)

Not one to be put up on a pedestal, he good-naturedly rebuffs efforts to elevate him to Leather royalty except, of course, when serving as His Most Imperial Majesty, Emperor 45 of Dallas and All Northeast Texas, so crowned by the United Court of the Lone Star Empire. Talking with him reveals a wealth of knowledge of and experience within the community as well as an irrepressible, irreverent spirit; indeed when asked what first brought him to NLA-Dallas, Dan responded, "It was so long ago, I do not remember!" It is certain what keeps him here, though: friendship and camaraderie.

Dan's Leather journey began with bondage, which continues to be one of his passions to this day, along with mentorship and power imbalance. For him, Leather is the umbrella under which sit leather, kink, bdsm, and fetish play; but most important to him is the interpersonal relationship that builds trust and shared energy. While he values his path, he also has fun with it. For instance, he is the only Master out there with a crown adorning his cover, and somewhere in his closet is a vest with a tongue-in-cheek patch identifying him as a member of the mythical Council of Elders. Through the humor, though, he is very clear about what he wants for NLA-Dallas. He wants us to sharpen our focus as a stable organization that continues the work of keeping the community together and serving to support and educate everyone.

Dan has a particular skill valued by all leatherfolkx: he does leatherwork! "I started when I was the costumer for a Renaissance Faire," he reminisces, "and had to make an outfit for the Sheriff. I was already playing in leather and started sewing it then. It soon became clothes and toys." If you are looking to have a particular garment or toy made, or if you just need a patch sewn on, he's your man. Next time you see Dan, be sure to say hello!

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## NLA-DALLAS UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING

Please join us either in person or virtually for the NLA-Dallas November General Meeting on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 7pm.



Kaprese (he/him)

For our Program, Kaprese will be presenting a guided conversation about the importance of being your authentic self and advocating for spaces for folx to do the same. In this workshop, the group will explore how and why they show up in spaces. Also, how they contribute to the overall need for authentic individuals in our leather world. Protocols are great but, the expression is the real name of the game. Come ready to exchange opinions, open your mind to new ideas, and be yourself!

...and then place your vote in our Special Election for Membership Chair, Communications Chair and Secretary!



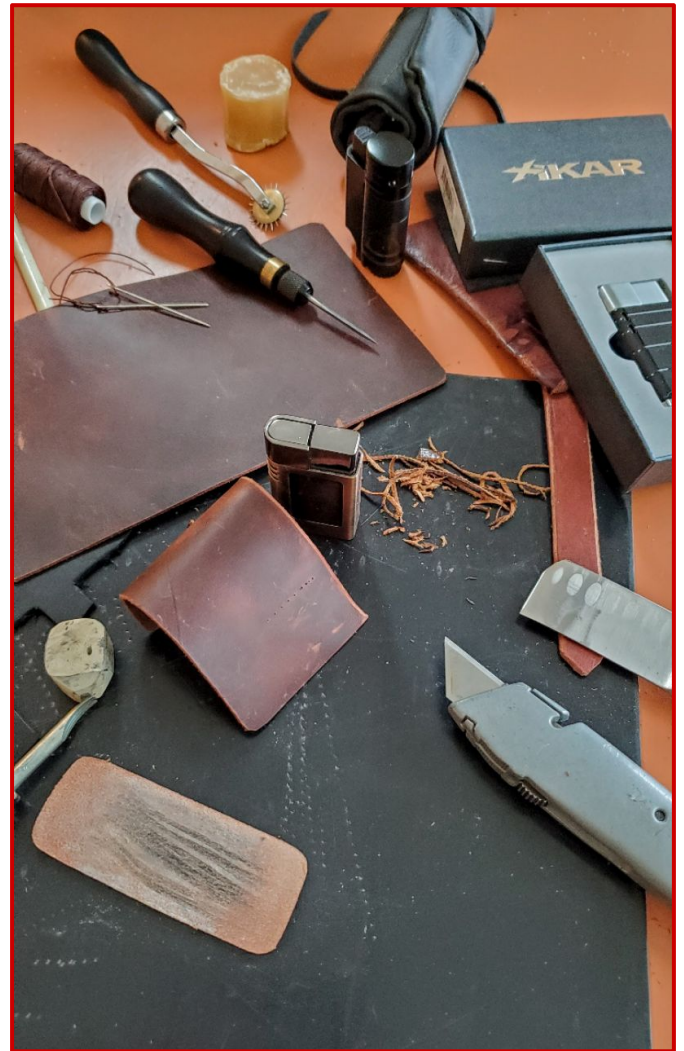
## **LEATHER EDUCATION: My Leathercraft by Absolem**

Like many, I got into leather because it was a functional item, a tool to make life and work better. In my case, it was armor against South Texas thorn bushes, cactus and prickly things. Initially, leathercraft for me was learning how to either fix something that was broken or make a replacement if it couldn't be fixed. A friend's grandfather showed me how to make a lead shot riding quirt that was short enough not to get tangled up when it dangled from the wrist, but long enough to reach over and tap the rump of a stubborn steer to get it moving. Looking back, that simple 4 plait leather quirt turned into a lifelong preference in a sea of leather "tools." I have since bought and made fancier, more decorative, and simply better looking ones; but it was that simple one made for function that really established its mark in me.

Coming from working horseback and using leather that generally was found in brown, light brown, dark brown, and latigo (brown), I have a definite preference for the brown leathers. It has something to do with the way they will take on their own personal patina depending upon how they are used. The character that emerges where a hand holds the leather, or a body moves in a specific way, rubbing and affecting the leather, making it a part of the person who owns it, truly turns me on. I select much of my leather by how the 'pull-up' affects the look: when you pinch the leather, it causes the pigmented oils to shift, thus shifting the hues and transforming the pinched area. That clearly defined pull-up inspires me to make things that enhance, demonstrate the effect, and encourage the user to play with the leather more to show off the curves and angles.

The real key for me is the condition of the leather. If it is soft and supple to the touch and flexes when worked, then the leather is generally healthy, and the oils and waxes in it are doing what they are meant to do. However, leather is affected by the elements around it and how it is used. If you're using your leathers, like boots, whip or flogger, then they are going to dry out, get scratched and scuffed, and start showing some wear and tear. This is when it becomes time to put them down, get settled back into a comfortable chair, and give back some energy to the leather piece you've been enjoying. If conditioning your leathers is something you would prefer not to do yourself, our community has many bootblacks; they know their stuff and know their leathers. I'm a leather crafter who prefers the tack leathers and oil tan types. When I condition, I ask some questions: Do I want the leather patina, or am I trying to remediate years of darkening and wear? Do I care about the leather turning darker than it originally was? Is the leather in danger of cracking sooner rather than later? Do I want the leather more rigid than supple? And what do I do about the scratches it has earned for me?

When I started working leather, I was taught to use saddle soap to get the dirt off (still do for that matter), and then neatsfoot oil to condition the leather and sometimes a waxy coating if it was going to see a lot of moisture contact. If I have a working piece of leather, and its function is more important to me than appearance, that is the same procedure that I use today. (continued on Page 4)



*Absolem's playground*



## **LEATHER EDUCATION** (Continued from page 3)

You might think that, this being the 21st century, our chemists have explored the depths and found technology to make conditioning better. Short answer? Nope; oil is oil and wax is wax. The method of getting it onto and, more importantly, into the leather hasn't changed much. Today, we read reviews and follow what others are saying, perhaps a bit too easily. Wonder treatments for leather are available to us and marketed to us with great success. I have bought a few bottles of lexol cleaner and conditioner for my car seats and have nearly hit "buy" for some leather honey, Amazon's top leather conditioners recommendation for the past few years. The result? Only a few short months after application, my dry car seat leather split completely open, something that I don't believe would have happened if I'd used a true leather conditioning technique. Lesson learned!

The question is, what is out there today that does work? Not everyone wants their car seats to darken, and they surely don't want to have neatsfoot oil leach into their clothing! Ever wonder why many horseback riders' jeans are a bit shinier in the seat and the denim doesn't wear as much as it does on the front? Yeah: oils protect cotton well too.



With a bit of digging around on the internet, I found a great article by [u/Varnu](#) on Reddit. He describes taking an old saddle, desperately in need of conditioning, and cutting it apart, after which he applied a variety of today's and yesteryear's conditioning treatments to the pieces; then he waited. What did I learn? Neatsfoot oil did and does still condition leather from cracking, better than many of the other products out there. Obenauf's Oil darkens, as anyone who has used it knows, but it also can be buffed some. Since it has been my "go to" for conditioning leather for many years, the results were a nice validation of my choice to use it over neatsfoot oil despite what I was taught. I'll also be adding bick#4 back into my lineup for times when I don't want darkening of the leather.

What particularly surprised me were the results and conclusions about the "great" products of lexol, leather honey, and some other newer brands. They were at the bottom of the lists every time. His non-lab produced results really highlighted how these over-hyped products aren't standing up to the real world of people who enjoy and want the most out of their leather. While they did affect the leathers they were applied to, they could not hold a candle to traditional approaches and products.

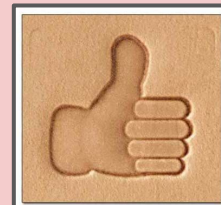
Conclusion? Keep with what works, avoid the hype and marketing, and research past the reviews and sponsored blog posts that push products the poster is selling. Use common sense in a world where it is easy to forget that we still have to be diligent in our choices, and remember that sometimes tradition really is the best way to do things.

### **Absolem's Reddit Recommendations**

[Test one: Short Test](#)

[Test Two: More in depth and more products](#)

[Test Three: Cracking Test](#)



## PET/HANDLER CORNER: little Jami and Aczucena

### How long have you identified as a handler, pet, or both?

**LJ:** I have identified as a pet handler for a little over a year, but prior to that discovery I had extensive time working with Bio horses.

**A:** I first identified as a Pony about a year and a month ago, but if you read my [Fet Journal Entry](#) "Every little girl wants a pony for her birthday," you will find that I always wanted to be a pony.

### What makes you the happiest in your identity?

**LJ:** Seeing how happy my pony is when being worked and in her own chosen identity.

**A:** The freedom to be a fabulous Show Pony and Princess Pony and be silly and free.

### What is your favorite activity?

**LJ:** Working on gaits and commands with Azucena.

**A:** Practicing my Puerto Rican Paso Fino natural gait!

### What is the hardest thing about being a handler/pet/both?

**LJ:** Finding the sweet spot balancing my pony's needs for a session with activities that meet those needs.

**A:** Being a Pony is one of the most liberating events in my life. It has allowed me to explore another primal yet playful aspect of me.

### Handler, if you could build a mini zoo of your 3 favorite species of pets, what would they be and why?

**LJ:** A pony, a puppy and a sloth...ponies and puppies make me happy, and I have a fascination with sloths.

**A:** No fair!!!

### What advice would you like to pass on to new handlers or pets?

**LJ:** Study and figure out how to do this safely. Pony play, while not dealing with hurty implements, is very physically demanding, and the gear and activities associated with it can be physically dangerous. Know your partner's physical limits and find ways to accommodate those limitations. For example, Azucena can't handle bit gags, so we found her a bridle that works without a bit.

**A:** Read! Research your Bio pet counterpart. Look at Bio horse training videos. Most importantly? Do your pet kink your way! Do not let anyone define your kink. Never.

### What learning resources have you found most beneficial?

- LJ:**
- \* The Human Pony by Rebecca Wilcox
  - \* PonyPlay with subMistressAnn
  - \* Highly recommend any horse handling books by Joe Camp and Monty Roberts
  - \* Horse handling/training videos by Mia Nielson, Warwick Schiller, Clinton Anderson, and Ken McNaab
- A:**
- \* The Human Pony Book by Rebecca Wilcox.
  - \* YouTube training videos on Bio Paso Fino horses.



little Jami (she/her) and Aczucena (she/her)

## WRITINGS TO THE EDITOR

We at the NLA-Dallas NewsLeather are grateful for you, our readers. When we asked you what you were grateful for, JustAsheli responded with a poem.

*Thank you for reading!*

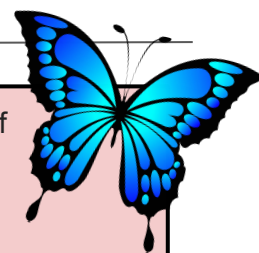
***The NewsLeather Staff***

*Katrine, KinkyIrishCowboy, Miss Velvet Steele, Patience, Sir Tender and Trix Lotuswolf*

I asked you what you loved about yourself  
and pressed my lips to your silence  
as if I hoped  
I could make you understand me  
by osmosis.

I will kiss you until the final breath leaves my lungs,  
and if you only take in  
a tenth of my love for you,  
even that would be enough.  
You will know there is no one alive more beloved  
than you.

-@JustAsheli



## VENDOR'S CORNER: **Foxy Feisty Redhead**

AJ of Foxy Feisty Redhead has a goal, which is to make chainmaille feel fun and body positive! She started creating these quality, made-by-hand works of art around 3 years ago because she wanted to have beautiful chainmaille pieces for herself but was having trouble finding that for larger bodies. Making pieces that are size inclusive is really important to her. She loves having people of all shapes and sizes be able to come up to her booth when vending and be able to try something on or find an item with their pride flag. As such, she has made a commitment to keep her scale halter tops the same price across all sizes and is adamant about having pieces that are available for all sizes that do not make the wearer feel "taxed" over their body. In addition, she takes great care to make sure she offers at least 9 or 10 different flag options when she vends so people do not feel left out. AJ says "my goal is that people feel seen, even if they don't walk away with a purchase."



*Kinky chainmaille made  
by a curvy redhead...*

Foxy Feisty Redhead is an avid supporter of the community and regularly donates to raffles or auctions where she is vending. This pandemic has not stopped her from giving back to her community. She has donated to groups that have raised tens of thousands of dollars for lifestyle related charities. She also runs raffles on her own facebook page to support Leather Heart Foundation and several POC and Trans mental health funds. Additionally, mystery bags are available for purchase on her website, with \$3 of each one going to an organization that helps folks in the Leather, kink, and sex worker community who are financially impacted by the pandemic.

Although selling online has been an interesting experience for everyone, it has not held back Foxy Feisty Redhead. It has presented her with a new experience and a client base that she may not have been able to reach before, though she cannot wait to return to business as usual vending and teaching in person! Covid has allowed AJ the time to build up quite a bit of stock, and she is ready to get out and show it to the masses. She is currently working on some beautiful holiday pieces and smaller items such as necklaces, earrings and bookmarks. She is always available to do larger personalized orders as well. She loves to experiment with patterns and colors while creating something personal just for you! For more information, check out her website, [FoxyFeistyRedhead.com](http://FoxyFeistyRedhead.com), or find her on [Facebook as Foxy Feisty Redhead](https://www.facebook.com/FoxyFeistyRedhead).

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

“Sometimes what seems like surrender isn't surrender at all. It's about what's going on in our hearts. About seeing clearly the way life is and accepting it and being true to it, whatever the pain, because the pain of not being true to it is far, far greater.”

-- Nicholas Evans





## **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: Sharon St. Cyr (SSC) Fund**

The Sharon St. Cyr (SSC) Fund is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that strives to raise money to provide hearing aids for hearing-impaired individuals as well as offer grants to organizations for ASL interpreting services. The SSC Fund was born in 2009 by Jeffrey Payne when he recognized a need and created a solution. He explains the need this way: "For most people, insurance coverage is non-existent or bare minimum as to reimbursement. There were those within our community who had neither insurance nor a means with which to purchase the materials needed to successfully continue on with employment, schooling, etc. Since I am hard of hearing, as are other family members, I felt we needed to bring this to the forefront since it was not in the mainstream arena." Sharon St. Cyr Fund was affectionately named in honor of Jeffrey's mother who passed away when he was only 4 years old.



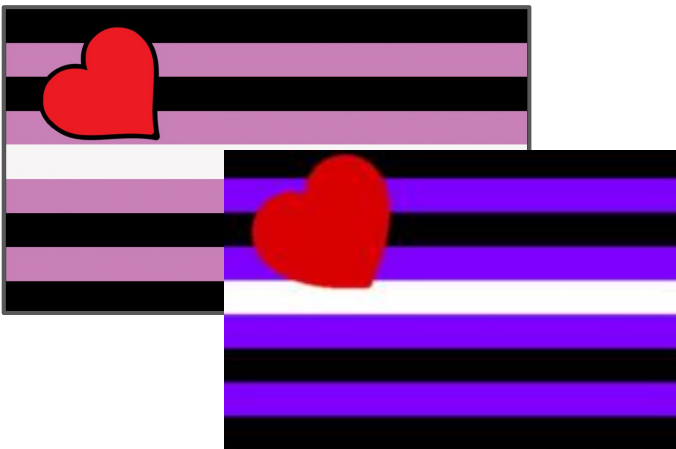
Attendees at the October NLA-Dallas general membership meeting learned about the SSC Fund from Board Member Amie McNamara, who shared an overview of how the organization works and the process of awarding grants. Those seeking assistance will find two applications available on the fund's website: one for hearing aid assistance and the other for an interpreter grant for events. Once the appropriate application is filled out and submitted with supporting documentation, the Board of Directors discusses it and makes a determination based exclusively on financial need, as all personal identifying information is removed to avoid any bias.

Support for the fund comes from various sources. Typically, several fundraising events occur each year, including the Annual Wreath Auction & Ice Cream Social; and many local charities and groups hold events to raise money to benefit this worthy cause. Donations can be made on their website by clicking the "Donate" button on the top. Transparent with their use of funds, even posting tax returns on their website, potential donors can be confident that 100% of all donations go directly to providing monetary assistance to those in need and organizations who wish to be more inclusive by offering ASL interpreters.


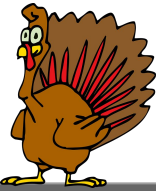
The Board of Directors currently consists of 7 members: President: Christopher Edwards, Vice President: Roger "Lipps LaRue" Wheeler, Secretary: Joel Legget, Treasurer: Jeffrey Payne, and three Board Members: Christopher Stinnett, Tracy Diaz, and Amie McNamara. Their tireless dedication has been integral to raising funds that through the years have benefitted over 150 events and 101 individuals with an additional 13 people in the pipeline.

[Click here to visit the SSC Fund Website](#)

## **COMMUNITY FLAGS: Leather Girl**



The most common flag for female-identifying Leatherfolk is the Leather Girl Pride Flag. According to Las Vegas Pride, the black stripes represent Leather and permanence, the pink ones represent female leather, the white are for purity and innocence, and the red heart is for the love of Leather women. It sometimes appears with the stripes placed diagonally but is more commonly seen mirroring the Leather Pride Flag. A woman named Tori Jones has designed a Leather Woman Pride Flag where the blue of the Leather Pride Flag is replaced by purple instead of pink; she chose purple for its royal color, which she feels represents her and many other women in the Leather Community. While it does not appear to have been as widely adopted, merchandise is available with this flag. Click [here](#) to see various offerings.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 1:30 pm <a href="#">TGRA Dallas Chapter Monthly Meeting</a> 3pm <a href="#">NTX Littles and Friends play date</a> 7pm <a href="#">Domme Chat</a> (Virtual)</p>	<p>2 7pm <a href="#">NLA-Dallas General Meeting &amp; Special Election</a> (Virtual and FTF)</p> 	<p>3 11:30 <a href="#">DFW Lunch Munch</a> (Ft. Worth) 7pm <a href="#">Kink or Bust</a>: Hand Cuffs with KingKey <b>Election Day Please vote!</b></p>	<p>4 8pm <a href="#">DFW Texas Rope Group</a> 7pm <a href="#">T-Bear Club Night</a></p>	<p>5 7pm <a href="#">submissive's corner</a> 8pm <a href="#">Ghoul's Night Out</a> <a href="#">Costume and Bosplay Ball</a> 8pm <a href="#">Makeup Class 101 with Texbiguy2020</a></p>	<p>6 6pm <a href="#">PolyDallas Millennium 2020</a> (thru Sunday) 7pm <a href="#">DFW-LINK November \$10 Charity Party</a> 8pm <a href="#">\$5 First Friday</a></p>	<p>7 12pm <a href="#">Dallas Bears Membership Meeting</a> 1pm <a href="#">Thank A Vet</a> 5:30pm <a href="#">Orientation Night</a> 6pm <a href="#">USO Show</a> 7pm <a href="#">Edge To Ecstasy #11</a></p>
<p>8 3pm <a href="#">ClubFEM DFW New Member Orientation</a> (virtual) 3pm <a href="#">UCLSE Monthly Membership Mtg</a></p>	<p>9 6:30pm <a href="#">Primal Munch</a> (Dallas) 7pm <a href="#">LL&amp;K Munch</a> (Arlington)</p>	<p>10 11:30 <a href="#">DFW Lunch Munch</a> (Arlington) 7pm <a href="#">Kink or Bust</a>: Sadistic Rope for the Non-Rope Top with ISayEep</p>	<p>11 6:30pm <a href="#">PCK November Munch</a> 7pm <a href="#">ERD Free Range Rope</a></p>	<p>12 7pm <a href="#">DFW Dominants Academy</a> 8pm <a href="#">Newbie Night</a></p>	<p>13 7pm <a href="#">Consent Workshop/AMO K Play Party</a> 9pm <a href="#">Dark: A Drag Show</a> 10pm <a href="#">Discipline Corps - Club Night</a></p>	<p>14 12pm <a href="#">Bears Membership Mtg</a> 7pm <a href="#">NLA-Dallas Bar Night</a> (virtual) 7pm <a href="#">TOP "Beat Your Meat" Dungeon Bash</a> 8pm <a href="#">Dungeon Monitor Class</a> 9pm <a href="#">\$10 Second Saturday Night</a></p>
<p>15 3pm <a href="#">NTX Littles and Friends play date</a></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 11:30am <a href="#">DFW Lunch Munch</a> (Ft Worth) 7pm <a href="#">Kink or Bust</a>: Mummification w/Rope2Spare 7:30pm <a href="#">Lone Star boys of Leather</a></p>	<p>18 8pm <a href="#">DFW Texas Rope Group</a> 8pm <a href="#">S.L.U.T.S. club night</a></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 7pm <a href="#">S&amp;M Nov Party</a></p>	<p>21 5pm <a href="#">Gaybingo Dallas</a> 7pm <a href="#">SILK Saturday</a> 10pm <a href="#">Onyx: Central SW Chapter Club Night</a></p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 11:30am <a href="#">DFW Lunch Munch</a> (Bedford) 7pm <a href="#">Kink or Bust</a> Vac Bed Play</p>	<p>25 7pm <a href="#">ERD Free Range Rope</a> 7pm <a href="#">UCLSE Club Night</a></p>	<p>26</p> 	<p>27 5pm <a href="#">DFW Lunch Munch and LINK Saturday Dinner</a> 8pm <a href="#">What's in a Toy bag</a></p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p><b>*DUE TO COVID-19, PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK TO ENSURE THE EVENT IS STILL HAPPENING!</b>                      Calendar events courtesy of <a href="#">Make a Difference</a>, <a href="#">FetLife</a>, Facebook and individual contributions.                      To ensure your event is listed, please contact <a href="mailto:newsleather@googlegroups.com">newsleather@googlegroups.com</a></p>				



**Editor's Request for the December issue:**

We loved your November writings about what you are thankful for (see Page 5) and we'd love to read more! For December, please send us your "Dear Naughty Santa" letters! Send your letters to [NewsLeather@googlegroups.com](mailto:NewsLeather@googlegroups.com) by 11/20/20!!