



NewsLeather

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

NLA-Dallas is about Education * Activism * Community

LEATHER EDUCATION: Leather Protocols...Then and Now

When I was five, back when the earth was cooling, I knew I was a Junior G-Man because I had a secret decoder ring and a secret handshake known only to other Junior G-Men (yes, it was pretty sexist back then...). That was then. Now, I wear my leather boots, vest and cover. Does that make me Leather? I would say no: we wear our leathers proudly, but others prefer furs, or pup masks, or latex, or.... So that can't be it. I believe you know members of the leather subculture by how you see them enact their leather values.

A great deal has been written about leather values, but after considerable debate here's what our leather family settled on:

- *Honesty*
- *Integrity*
- *Loyalty*
- *Community*
- *Radical Sexuality*

With our leather values agreed on, the debate turned to protocols. Not the personal protocols participants in a D/s relationship may choose to use, not the ones our leather family observes among our family, but the public ones we enact and observe when we are in a group of leather folk. While the details of these behaviors evolve constantly, we believe the purpose of these protocols is to affirm our commitment to the shared values of the leather community. By observing someone's enactment of leather protocols, you can get an initial read on how well the person intends to exemplify the community's shared values, and thus, whether they "are one of us." Until you know the person better, these observations are a place to start.

(Continued on page 4)



Parade of Colors at Women's International Leather Legacy (WILL)

BEYOND VANILLA ONLINE

Beyond Vanilla is excited to announce the first ever Beyond Vanilla Online, to be held on October 3, 2020, as an added benefit for Beyond Vanilla XXX ticketholders. As we announced previously, Beyond Vanilla XXX has been postponed until October 1-3, 2021, but the need for physical distancing hasn't diminished our interest in kink! BV XXX ticketholders will have the opportunity to attend a one-day online conference where we will explore topics such as fear play, gender, and intentional relationship design. Keep an eye on Facebook and Fetlife, where we'll be announcing our exciting lineup soon. In the meantime, head on over to beyondvanilla.org to get your Early Bird ticket so you can join us at BV Online next month and BV XXX next year.

**Limited Edition face masks?!?
TXPE Contentants!**

We **need you...on page 2**



**We look forward to seeing you at
BV Online on October 3, 2020 and at BV XXX in 2021!**

PURCHASE YOUR LIMITED EDITION BV30 MASK TODAY!



What?!? Alice did a mask video? Click on the photo above to hear what she has to say.

[Click here to purchase your Limited Edition BV30 mask!](#)

CONTESTS AND TITLE HOLDERS: Texas Power Exchange (TPE)

The Texas Power Exchange Contest (TXPE) is kicking off its inaugural year on **October 10, 2020**. Producers Malcolm and Master John are thrilled to be bringing this new contest to Dallas because it embraces such a wide swath of our community and promotes education about the myriad of possibilities in power exchange dynamics. Open to those over 21 regardless of gender or sexual preference, all flavors of mature (1+ years) power exchange pairs/triads/poly/families are invited to compete, limited to 3 representatives from a poly family. Because of a strong commitment to the health and safety of all contestants, judges, volunteers and attendees, logistics are still in the planning stages.

TXPE contestants will be judged in four areas: an educational presentation in which contestants demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively and educate about their specific dynamic, a demo/fantasy in which contestants will be invited to present a scene or scenario that involves their power dynamic, a closed interview with the judges, and their overall presentation during the contest. With fundraising assistance from TXPE, the selected titleholders will have the opportunity to present demos and classes to educate others about their dynamic in venues across the country, and they will go on to compete in the International Power Exchange Contest at Beyond Leather in May of 2021.

When asked what made this educational title special, Malcolm and Master John had this to say: "The Texas Power Exchange Contest celebrates the wonderful diversity of power exchange dynamics found within our community, both those that identify as leather and those that do not. From Owner/property to Taken in Hand to Sir/Ma'am and boy/boi/girl/little and everything in between, we have much to teach each other and much to celebrate."

**Seeking contestants
Apply today!**



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: **ONYX Pearls**

At this past NLA-Dallas general meeting, we were honored that Mama Vi, with her usual flair for storytelling, shared some of the Onyx Pearls history. The Onyx Pearls is a non-profit, group of women and non-binary people who have gathered together to educate and explore their sexuality for empowerment. The group was formed so Women of Color always have a safe space to ask questions and learn. They also volunteer their service of teaching and helping at many of the Leather events in the community.

The Pearls were created in 2014 when Women of Color began showing up at the Onyx events and supporting their brothers in leather. There were 7 original pearls: Jill Carter, Mama Vi Johnson, Goddess Lakshimi, Mistress Lash, Lady Cocoa and Lady D who became teachers and educators among Leather people. They jokingly became the "Jewels of Onyx", later going on to become the Pearls gaining their name from the song "The Black Pearl". In 2014, Lady D Harris began a successful expansion of the Pearls with mentee "Choc Trei" and they became known as the Mid-Atlantic Pearls. As Lady D's idea began to grow, the charter began to change from women to include anyone identifying as a female or a gender fluid AFAB individual. The Pearls are embracing BIWOC and allowing them to experience the kink world and ask questions without feeling foolish. They strive to be visible in kink and even more so in Leather. They encourage the liberation for BIWOC in the sexual light so that they may fully embrace the context of Leather Living.

Currently, there are chapters in Dallas, Vegas, Pacific North, Great Lakes and Mid-Atlantic. They hope to continue expanding. They are also planning for a "Gathering of the Pearls" soon. Chapters are formed through a "parenting process" in which the parenting chapter will vote to accept the petition of a group of women/AFAB folks of color who want to form their own chapter in their area. Once that petition has been accepted, they are led through a process that requires them to complete some specific tasks while also helping them to bond as a group among themselves. After a period of time, a vote is made as to whether or not the charter is extended to the petitioning group. The chapters have the ability to choose their own flavor on what they do but they all work from the same basic recipe: a leather social club for BIWOC dedicated to the uplifting of one another and others like them. There are more branches in the works and they are excited to see more Pearls added to the strand.



The symbolic meaning of the phoenix is about renewal, rebirth and regeneration. It is a testament to overcoming and rising to the challenge to become empowered and successful.

NLA-DALLAS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: **Valerie**

A long-time member of NLA-Dallas, Valerie first came to a meeting with Big Ray in 1998 when meetings were held at the Resource Center at the corner of Brown and Regan. What began with her friend's discovery of the organization has led to friendships that feel like home. She is pleased with the group's improved community outreach among new members, and she would like to see a heightened online presence of the group's history.

Valerie believes that Leather is what is in your heart and sees it as a part of one's everyday life. She sees it as a guiding code of conduct by which one lives one's life. As one who embraces life's passions, she has found particular joy in the kink world with paddles (on humans who say yes), tea service (attending, participating, and educating), and shoes (enough said). Her passions of charity work, helping others, and organization are easily seen in her commitment to community education and service as a former treasurer for NLA-Dallas, her role as Her Majesty...Empress 45 of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire, and working closely with the Dallas submissives Mentors Program. "You must live what's in your heart," she says when asked about her passions.

Valerie's first experience with Leather was as part of ROTC in high school, and the set of values and morals made an impression on her. The year the Ms. World Leather contest came to Dallas was a memorable moment on her Leather journey that expanded her circle of acquaintances and friends. As you might imagine given her wide social circle, she answers to a variety of names from Your Majesty, Empress 45 of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire to Hey, Tie-Dye to just Valerie.



Valerie (she/her)

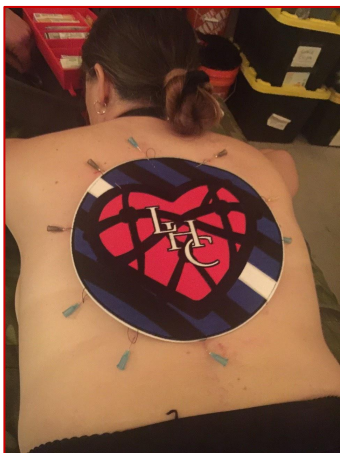
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LEATHER EDUCATION (Continued from page 1)

A historical perspective: the protocols we observe are evolutionary descendants of some of protocols observed by various gay leather communities as they came together after the military experience of World War II. To understand where the current protocols originated, have a look at Larry Townsend's *The Leatherman's Handbook II – Updated 2nd edition*. It includes a synthesis of protocols he observed in the gay leather communities he knew. Writing it was a very gutsy thing to do! Remember that at the time it was written, the gay community, and especially the gay leather community, was underground. Protocols of dress and behavior had the important purpose of protecting the community from interlopers. As the community "came out," it grew to be more inclusive of gender and sexual identities, as well as race and ethnicity. The process of evolution by natural selection added new protocols and adapted others. Some fell into disuse. This is a continuous process that leads to different results in each local leather community.

Given this constant evolution, all I can do is take a snapshot of some of the "public" protocols our leather family observes in leather community contexts. Space does not permit a complete list, but here are some examples:

- **Introductions:** the first time you meet, inquire about the person's scene name, pronouns, and how they are affiliated with the leather community (independent, in a leather family with..., in a D/s relationship with..., etc.). Until you know these things, use *Sir* (remember that *Ma'am* or *Boy* could be an insult). Do not make assumptions about a person; ask, "should I assume that you..." As an aid to introductions, we wear bar vests with patches and pins to symbolize our leather identity and experience. Read those symbols before you talk. [Pro tip: the pins serve as great conversation starters!]
- **Subs:** the community is very protective of subs. Maintain a respectful distance. Do not talk to or touch a sub until you have inquired, *may I?* or *are you in service?* If you wish to communicate with a sub, first try to find their Dominant and ask permission (this can be easy: the sub may be standing to the side or behind their dominant, often with hands behind their back, unless they are performing a service for their dominant). If you can't find their Dominant, ask the sub if they have permission to talk, shake hands, hug, etc. If the sub initiates conversation or contact with you, then it's OK to assume they have permission (agency) to do so, and you can reciprocate using the same terms, touches, distance, etc.
- **Dominants:** If you're not sure of a person's status, treat them as a Dom until you know otherwise. Approach the Dom, but maintain a respectful distance and do not initiate or interrupt a conversation until recognized verbally or non-verbally. Do not touch the Dom or anyone in the group without asking first, *may I?* -- until you know their wishes. For anyone new to you, follow the protocol for introductions, above.
- **Surroundings:** Be aware of your surroundings. Be prepared to help: open doors for people; offer to carry things. Don't barge through, or cut someone off, or invade their space. Notice if a person looks confused or lost, and offer to help. Notice the conversation groups that have formed, and observe them until it becomes obvious who is the senior member and what their hierarchy is. If you need to approach that group, treat the senior member as the Dominant until you know otherwise. Always stay within visual contact of your D/s partner, so you can assist if needed. Know where the other members of your group are, so you can help if needed. Listen and smile more than you talk.



Whips in the Woods
Patch Pinning Ceremony
lilheaven (she/her)

What do these protocols have to do with leather values? By following them, we demonstrate loyalty to the community. When we converse or touch using these protocols, we demonstrate integrity and honesty. And, of course, part of radical sexuality is consent.

In conclusion, these protocols are our ways of showing respect for our peers in the leather community. Are any of these protocols specific to leather? Of course not! When we were debating what protocols to follow, JlubeJack, our family Elder, gave us all copies of Fulgham's *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. At base, leather protocols are just applications of the Golden Rule your mother taught you!

-Article written by Slave robin and Sheri /Leather Heart Clan (www.leatherheartclan.org)

"Each of my family members present took turns putting in the needles. It was super fun! I call it a blood patch ceremony... Pinned to my hide before permanently pinned on cowhide. Loosely based on a military tradition of blood wings or blood rank."

- lilheaven

PET/HANDLER CORNER: Handler Katrine and Bee Pup

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

K: An experienced bio-dog trainer and equestrian, I have been exploring pet handling in the community since 2014.

BP: As long as I can remember! I've been pretending to be a dog in one way or another since childhood. Now I'm a Border Collie pup!

What makes you the happiest in your identity?

K: The moment in a scene where my pet and I connect at that level of synchronization where we are both completely immersed in our roles/headspace.

BP: Feeling safe, wanted, and loved.

What is your favorite activity?

K: I love obedience training in general but am always down for a game of fetch or giving out some solid belly rubs :)

BP: Snuggles and pets!

What rituals/protocols/items/gear help you get into the right headspace?

K: My treat bag and clicker, and shopping for treat selections. Touching foreheads with my pup is also super grounding and connective.

BP: Wearing my hood and tail!

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

K: Right now, not having a dedicated time or space to immerse oneself into the proper mindset.

BP: Finding time to indulge.

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

K: Consent in making contact is still valid and important. Just because someone is wearing a hood, participating in a mosh, or is in their pet space DOES NOT give you a free pass to touch or pet them/grab a leash/grab their collar, etc. without gaining consent.

BP: Gear does not make a pup - the pup makes the gear.

What learning resources have you found most beneficial?

K: My pup (Pup Bee) has written excellent notes regarding classical and operant conditioning. I also advise sources that focus on positive reinforcement training tips. IE: reading up on clicker training and training used for bio dogs, horses, and domestic cats, as well as animal non-verbal communications can really give you a great head start, either on the handler OR the pet side.

BP: Getting out into the community and seeing the vastly different types of pups and personalities that are out there really opened my eyes to the fact that there is room for everyone here.



Katrine (she/her) and Bee Pup (he/him)

This month's NewsLeather was brought to you by: Katrine, KinkyIrishCowboy, Miss Velvet Steele, Sir Tender, Trix Lotuswolf and ~patience. A huge **THANK YOU** to Fred, Val, Markus, Alice and many others for contributing content to make this happen. We appreciate you!



COMMUNITY FLAGS: Non-Binary



Non-binary or "Enby" people have been present since the beginning of time but only recently have we gotten a representing flag amongst the LGBTQIA+ community. In 2014, Kye Rowan created the nonbinary pride flag, not to replace the genderqueer flag, but to be flown alongside it.

Non-Binary describes any gender identity that does not fit the male or female spectrum. The colors on this flag are Yellow (signifies something on its own or people who identify outside of the cisgender binary of male or female.), White (a color that consists of all colors mixed together, stands for multigender people), Purple (similar to the lavender color in the genderqueer flag, represents people who identify as a blending of male and female genders.), and Black (or the absence of color, signifies those who are agender or who feel they do not have a gender.) The non-binary flag covers a plethora of gender identities.

For more information, check out [Cade Hildreth's article](#) on the Non-Binary flag.

KEEPING COMMUNITY FIRST AT THE DALLAS EAGLE

If 2020 were a hula hoop, it would be made of barbed wire. Individuals and businesses are having to make difficult decisions with no good options. The Dallas Eagle is no exception. Last open on March 16, of this year, the bar has remained closed as a precaution for both employees and patrons.

We all have a place that is a home away from home, and for many of us it has been the Dallas Eagle. Owner Jeffrey Payne takes that responsibility seriously. Upon the announcement of closures, he immediately contacted the mayor's office pushing for a comprehensive plan from the City of Dallas and various agencies to assist those within our community with lost revenue and lost wages. Regardless of the city's response, though, he has continued to look out for his community's best interest. "Money is not at stake," says Jeffrey. "Our patrons, my staff and my families' lives and health are what is at stake...Do I need to open for financial reasons? You bet your ass, I do. But I will never value a person's life and well-being over my making a buck."



Jeffrey and his "Dirty Bird"

As a place where many of us have made lasting memories, had unforgettable moments, and found many friends, we feel the loss of our gathering place acutely. Founders Matt Miller and Mark Fraizer first opened the doors of The Dallas Eagle in 1995 to meet a perceived need in the DFW Leather Community. Since the opening of the bar, through moves and changes of ownership, numerous clubs and organizations (some still around, some now defunct) have called the Eagle home. Across the years, on any given night, one could attend meetings and gatherings of a myriad of clubs such as the Leather Knights, NLA-Dallas, Discipline Corps, Lone Star Cigar Men, Eagle Bears, United Court of the Lone Star Empire, Dallas Bears, Texas Gay Rodeo Association, DFW Leather Corps, Dallas Diablos, and The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

Other highlights we are missing include themed bar nights, community fundraisers, weddings, and a variety of contests traditionally held at the Eagle. Annually we have hosted many contests - South Central Leather (Sir, Boy, BB), Great Plains Olympus Leather (Mr, Ms, Mx), Dallas Eagle (Mr, Ms, BB), and Texas Leather (Mr, Ms, BB). Bartender Dylan Brown had this to say, "The Dallas Eagle has been my home even before I started bartending there. I've made lifelong friendships with the people I work with and awesome customers I have grown to know. I've seen people learn to be comfortable with fetishes, kinks, people who are different than them and, of course, themselves...I'm proud to be a part of a bar family that cares about the community and the employees."

Since Covid hit, our home away from home has been staying closed for our welfare and safety. Throughout the crisis, Jeffrey has consistently chosen to err on the side of caution to protect his people. "We could take precautions that could limit the potential spread of COVID-19," he says, "however, I do not feel the risk involved in potentially spreading this within our community is a risk worth taking." He assures us that he and the staff miss each of us immensely, but they will remain closed at least till the end of September or there's a better outlook. We can rest easy, though, knowing that when the time comes, the doors will open again, and we all can go back to the place we call home and enjoy drinks and cigars with all of our friends and family.

With the holidays just around the corner (or if you have extra time on your hands), check out this video on **how to make a leather knife sheath**



Valerie (continued from page 3)

Next time you see her, be sure to say hello. In the meantime, she can be reached at valerienladallas@yahoo.com.

Endnote: Valerie met best friends Big Ray and Gator on a camping trip in 1993. Gator would later become her husband, and Big Ray would push her further into the Dallas community. Sadly, Valerie and Gator lost a piece of their hearts on 08/24/2020 when Big Ray passed away. They are heartbroken with his loss but grateful for the gift he brought to their lives every day that they've known him.

Devyn Stone A.K.A. SirHorror (He/Him) is a transgender, dominant leatherman who has been actively practicing nonmonogamy and authority transfer since 2004. He has overcome tremendous odds including abuse, trauma and mental illness to fulfill his lifelong dream... to be loved for who he truly is. He is a mental health and LGBTQ+ advocate. In 2019 Devyn made the life changing decision to build his career as a BDSM author and educator. He has a passion for giving and receiving education and he can often be found speaking on topics such as; protocol, authority transfer, organization, gender and negotiation.

Devyn is an extrovert that loves to tell stories and make friends. He believes in diversity not division and he actualizes that idea by promoting strongly inclusive spaces and interactions. Devyn has published several books and is excited to release more resources to his community soon. He lives in Dallas, TX His property 840 that is unquestionably devoted to his will and serves as his useful object. Devyn is the Founder and current owner of the virtual group Pragmatically Kinking where members discuss the practical aspects of BDSM.



Devyn Stone
(he/him)

“If a bottom says they don’t have limits – don’t go get the chainsaw. Break out the shovel and dig deeper! Ask more specific questions. Some bottoms don’t know that death or dismemberment is an option. Some bottoms don’t know what they may or may not like. Scaring them with mutilation is cruel, in my opinion. And who knows... death may not be a limit for them...”
- Excerpt from “A Quick Reference Guide To Personal Responsibility in BDSM Negotiations” by Devyn Stone

Leather Masters and EM City - A New Partnership

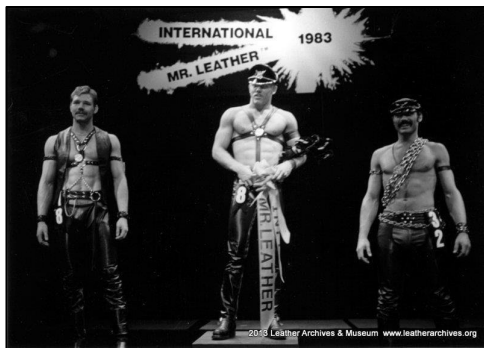
In the July 2020 edition of the NewsLeather, we published an article about Leather Masters. We are happy to report that Markus entered a partnership with EM City. EM City will be the new retail store front and manufacturer of LM products. Check them out at [https://www.emcityleatherandkink.com/!](https://www.emcityleatherandkink.com/)



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



Fred (he/him) says be sure to keep a mask on you and your loved ones



International Mr. Leather 1983
Photo from the Leather Archive and Museum Collection




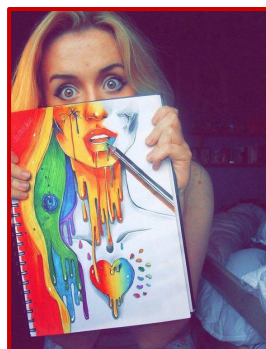
Dallas Pride Parade 2007
Dallas Eagle float



“Lazy Afternoon”
JFR Cigar 8”x80
ring gauge.

Calendar of Lifestyle Events in the D/FW Area

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 11:30am DFW Lunch Munch (Rodeo Goat in Ft Worth) 7pm Kink or Bust *(Sept 1 - 13) UCLSE Pampered Chef Fundraiser	2 7pm T-Bear Club Night	3 7pm submissive's corner 8pm Gurls Night Out	4 6:30pm Rope Dojo 7pm \$10 Kink For Charity \$10 (The Jed Foundation) 9pm \$5 First Friday	5 5:30pm Orientation Night 7pm Edge to Ecstasy: Dirty Disney 7pm UCLSE Friends Helping Friends 8pm Needles Class
		6 1:30 pm TGRA Dallas Chapter Monthly Meeting 3pm NTX Littles and Friends	7 7pm NLA-Dallas General Meeting (Cancelled for Labor Day) 	8 11:30 DFW Lunch Munch (Moni's Pasta & Pizza (Arlington)) 7pm Kink or Bust : Whip play with TaoHedonist	9	10 7pm DFW Dominants Academy 7pm Bridging the Generational Gap
13	14	15 11:30 DFW Lunch Munch (Angelo's BBQ in Ft Worth) 7pm Kink or Bust : Sensation Play with TCdfw	16 7:30pm UCLSE Pillow Talk	17 8pm Game Night	18 7pm S&M September Party 9pm Dom/me's Buffet & Open Play Party	19 5:30pm Orientation - Intro to BDSM 7pm SILK Saturday 7pm UCLSE Candidate Announcement Show 8pm The Pop Up: DFW Feet N'Greet 8pm Primal Wrestling Class
20 3pm NTX Littles and Friends play date	21	22 11:30am DFW Lunch Munch (SpringCreek BBQ in Bedford) 7pm Kink or Bust	23 7pm UCLSE Club Night	24 7pm Little's Night with a SPECIAL SURPRISE VISITOR!	25 6pm Fourth Friday (virutal) 9pm Fire Demo	26 5pm DFW Lunch Munch and DFW L.I.N.K. 4th Saturday Dinner Munch 7pm UCLSE Candidate Show 8pm Kink Lab: Wax Play
27	28 7pm NLA-Dallas EC Meeting	29 11:30am DFW Lunch Munch (Kincaid's in Ft. Worth) 7pm Kink or Bust	30	<p>*DUE TO COVID-19, PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK TO ENSURE THE EVENT IS STILL HAPPENING! <i>Calendar events courtesy of Make a Difference, FetLife and individual contributions. To ensure your event is listed, please contact newsleather@googlegroups.com</i></p>		



Editor's Request for the next issue:

Tell us about your Halloween theme scene (real or imagined)! Send your submission(s) to NewsLeather@googlegroups.com by 9/24/20!!

Photo to the left: Lisa Moran, an artist in Ireland, made *Skin Deep* for Halloween. The impressive *Reconstructive Surgery* was just a casual image she colored between exams. Check out her entire gallery [here](#).