

# The Lunatic Fringe

Newsletter of The Exiles - June 2012

## *Welcome back, Fringe!*

Hello all Exiles members, associates, and admirers! My name is Lina and I am proud to say that in taking the reins of editing the newsletter that I am hoping to help grow the Exiles; our reach in the community, here in SF, and worldwide.

Here's what's in this newsletter:

- Places to see and be seen with the Exiles!
- The next program: Hands-on Fisting Workshop!
- Club News
- The next Orientation: get your friends to join!
- Report from the April program: Let's Stick Together: Piercing Workshop  
Presenter: Karen/Estrella
- Report from the May Program: Teasing and Torturing with Marilyn
- Minutes from the May Business Meeting
- What's next for the Fringe??

Stay tuned for more regular delivery of the Lunatic Fringe.

-Lina

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## **PLACES TO SEE AND BE SEEN WITH THE EXILES!**

There are a lot of events going on for Pride month -check our community calendars for the most up-to-date information: The Leather Alliance calendar and the Janus Community calendar can both be found at our website, <http://theexiles.org/>.

The Exiles will have a banner in the Leather contingent of the Gay Pride march on June 24th, and all members and friends are welcome to march with us!

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## **PROGRAM: Hands-on Fisting Workshop June 15, 8-10pm, The Women's Building**

If you – or you and your partner - have always wanted to try vaginal fisting, here's where you can learn how to do it safely – and practice with each other!

We'll cover the basics of anatomy, safer sex, mental and physical preparation, communication, relaxation, lubrication, hand positioning, and what to do once you get inside. After a demonstration,

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you'll have an opportunity to try it yourself, either as a fister or fistee.

We'll have several slings, lube (bring your preferred brand!), latex gloves, chucks, and personal coaches to help you one-on-one. Bring a partner, or come on your own, and learn the ins and out of this unique erotic practice.

## Program Meeting Info

The Women's Building is located at 3543 - 18th Street at Valencia in San Francisco. All women (and those whose gender self-identity is other than male) who are over 18 are welcome. We have sign language interpreters at all of our meetings.

Members are \$4; non-members \$10. Please have membership card or ID ready to speed entry.

The program runs from 8:00 - 10:00pm and the doors open at 7:30pm.

## Directions to The Women's Building

**Public Transit BART** - The Women's Building is close to 16th street BART. Special note: one side-effect of gentrification in the Mission is that there are a lot of people on the streets between The Women's Building and the BART station - all nice safe people going to one of the many new local restaurants. You'll probably feel safe walking the few blocks from 16th Mission BART and The Women's Building.

**Muni** - The 22 Fillmore runs down 16th Street. Get off at 16th & Valencia and walk two blocks to The Women's Building. The 14 Mission runs along Mission Street. Get off at 17th or 18th and walk 1-1/2 blocks to TWB.

**Parking Garage** - Street parking is difficult in this neighborhood. There is an inexpensive locked parking garage available on 21st St. between Valencia and Mission and 16th and on Hoff St between Mission and Valencia.

<http://theexiles.org/>

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## CLUB NEWS

- June is **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH!** You can [renew online](#), or [print the form from the web](#) site. Email Membership at [membership@theexiles.org](mailto:membership@theexiles.org) if you can't make the form work for any reason.
- We have an exciting line-up of events that require hands, presence, and energy to keep going. If you can lend a hand at any events, please contact [cocos@theexiles.org](mailto:cocos@theexiles.org).
- We have had some interesting changes and look forward to working with new board members, new energy, and new enthusiasm. Expect some big opportunities to lend a hand in the coming months!

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## ORIENTATION

The next Orientation will be Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Niebyl Proctor Marxist Library at 6501 Telegraph in Oakland. Invite your friends to become members of the Exiles! Members are always welcome to come and help out and schmooze. Contact Val, our Orientation Officer, at

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[orientation@theexiles.org](mailto:orientation@theexiles.org) for more information.

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## APRIL PROGRAM REPORT by Summer

### Let's Stick Together: Piercing Workshop Presenter: Karen/Estrella

On April 20, at the Women's Building in San Francisco The Exiles hosted a workshop on play piercing by Karen/Estrella. The program began right on time at 8pm and went until after 10pm. It was an intimate gathering with about 50 people in attendance.

The presenter, Karen, began with why we pierce people and an overview of how skin looks with very helpful visuals which she drew on large pieces of paper for the audience to better understand. She used this picture of a sideview of what makes up our skin to explain in detail how to pierce safely. She also gave very good advice and cautions on how, where and when to pierce each other.

She was very thorough in emphasizing that this play requires "impeccable precautions", and that the closer you and your equipment is to sterile the better. She also explained that even though there is some risk involved this kind of play it is still very safe. The techniques on how to keep the piercer's hands out of the way while piercing were very helpful as we all got a chance to either pierce or be pierced after the break and very fun demonstration on how needles can be used in age play.

This was a very thorough presentation and covered all of the basics including the names of the different parts of the needle, where to obtain them, how to use them and how to dispose safely of used needles. A lot of emphasis was placed on safety and it was evident in her work after the break when she taught hands on with assistants how to properly pierce on participants.

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## MAY PROGRAM REPORT by Summer

### May 25<sup>th</sup>: Teasing and Torturing with Marilyn

The May program for the Exiles was on Teasing and Torturing and presented by Marilyn. It was well attended with several new people coming to the event, and in one case two people from Fresno, to learn the tips on incorporating teasing and torture into negotiated play. The program began with her torture victim already in restraints and blindfolded before us. Clearly the torture had begun for the victim, Rio.

Marilyn slapped, pierced and scratched her victim for a good 3 minutes before even speaking; the audience was enraptured. She then began explaining that torture, such as just demonstrated, can easily cross a line with some people, and to be careful. This was repeated several times throughout her program along with trust being essential in an edge play scene such as torture, ensuring that we learned this important piece of advice. She also cautioned that an intense scene is not a time when you want to surprise your bottom with a new technique, and to be well-acquainted with your toys and skills before beginning.

Marilyn then switched gears deftly, ignoring her bottom to explain how desires can come in handy with teasing and torturing. The two go hand in hand, she explained. You can start with teasing once you have learned a desire, then twist it into a slow torture. She demonstrated this with a new bottom who liked to be caned. She began by making the bottom beg for the caning she eventually received, then withholding it in a very effective demonstration on how to dance along the lines of desire and torture to enhance play.

After the break we watched as a "audience" member was publicly stripped then offered to be taken home by the crowd, in a very good demonstration of playing with someone's humiliation fantasies without making it too

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obvious that it's just a scene. This was a good segue into explaining how teasing and torture intertwine but don't necessarily involve overt techniques with lots of toys, just knowledge.

We were then introduced to how begging can be considered torture (or teasing), when Bennett was made to beg for the permission to suck Marilyn's cock. It was both fun and interesting to watch Bennett being forced to beg and kneel for her opportunity.

We also learned that sometimes self-inflicted torture, such as having a bottom take the needles out themselves after a piercing, could be just as effective in a "Mind Fuck" scenario. The fun and the draw of a torture scene isn't what's being done to a "victim" as much as what they "think" will be done to them. This is where the edge in an edge play scene comes in. Sure the bottom knows you've negotiated this to the Nth degree but do they know that the knife that she just used to cut your garments off with is still in her hand when she drags a hard cool point along your flesh? This is the mind fuckery that makes teasing and torture go so well together.

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## MINUTES FROM THE MAY BUSINESS MEETING

**May 6, 2012**

Attendees: Angel, Lou, Ramsey, Rio, Summer, Val, Leslie, Tracy, Bennett

### Recognitions:

- Rio to River for her service as PR Outreach Officer
- Bennett to Val for mentoring her with QWOCMAP
- Lou to Val for helping the CoCos get oriented
- Countess to Marilyn for going the extra mile and helping to organize the structure of the wiki

### Old Business

- Action Items from last meeting:
- We have no January minutes. **Did anyone else take notes which they can write up**
- We have no February minutes. **Did anyone else take notes which they can write up** Lou will contact Scot in hopes that she took notes at these meetings.

### New Business

- Transitions for each new officer and how they are going.
  - Val and Ramsey will be meeting up to trade notes regarding Ramsey's position as Membership Officer.
  - Recorder – Lou will contact Scot for information to get to Countess (Info in old orientation programs and if Scot does not have the document). No problems to report.
  - Treasurer – Has some paperwork to be passed off on Tuesday night to Angel who will then become a signer on the bank account and have access to the finances. Lou and Val will become signers on the bank account as well.
  - Ramsey will have Morgan as a designated helper. Ramsey will contact Morgan.
- Rio brought up being interested in having more speakers at future events, e.g., Tristan Taormino. Will discuss later.
- QWOCMAP – Bennett and Val are involved. Octavia is updating the 2011 postcard with 2012 information and we are using the same logos. Countess posted links on web site and calendar. Rio posted info on Facebook. Cards need to be delivered to QWOCMAP by May 15th. Volunteer needs – Bennett will ask Trinity to join. Bennett, Val, and Kinky Lez to attend as Exiles representatives.
- (Should we add a program rating for more advanced programs? To be discussed online).
- The postcard order can go out to the printer tomorrow. Bennett handling; \$100 approved for cost.
- Revising our Articles of Association. A committee headed by Marilyn will be formed to go over this.

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- NWLC Update – Well underway with Champagne and Chocolates.
- Storage Unit – needs cleanup and re-organization. Call for volunteers. Lou has 1/3 of things in her personal storage; will bring to the storage unit. Angel will pick up the missing safer sex supplies on Tuesday and will bring to storage unit when we clean and sort it.
- Folsom: We have a schedule conflict at CSC for this event with the Carter/Johnson Leather Library. After much discussion, agreed to have our M&G at The Women's Building. Would like to ask Vi Johnson to attend our Meet and Greet?
- Rio's Back Patch – Rio has formally apologized for inadvertently breaching the Articles and has asked for permission to continue to wear her patch and Val made a motion to recount apology, Passed.
- Steering Committee meeting – Will continue this online.
- Agent of Service of Process – Val is willing to be legal Agent of Service of Process.

## **New business from Officers:**

- Greeters (Leslie) for new members. Summer & Ramsey will greet new people at programs. Discussion about how/if to formalize this process.

## **Coordinators (Rio, Lou)**

- Need volunteers for booth at Leather Alley Sunday June 24th.
- July program is Novice Night
- August Program: Lou is looking into having August Knight MC this event.

\*Note: Lou will not be at May's program and possibly not at the June meeting.

**Leather Alliance:** Tracy says everything is going well on this.

## **Membership:**

- Ramsey, action plan for the renewal season and June membership drive. Val has the numbers for membership as 134 this year, 149 last year and the year before 189.

## **Newsletter Editor:**

- Lina has offered to become the newsletter editor.

## **Orientation (Val):**

- Next one is June 1st. Need to establish future dates for palm cards. Dates established and given to Bennett.
- Agreed to move Orientation to Saturday so as not to conflict with Daddy Ken's memorial.

## **PR/Outreach (open):**

- NWLC ad and cards are done. Upcoming events: Leather Alley at Gay Pride (June 24th), Up Your Alley (July), Leather-Levi Weekend (August), Folsom (September). Can we get a list of all of the listservs we have been using, and split them up between ourselves to keep up with postings?
- Angel will have cards for NWLC. Bennett and Lou are working on the cards for this.
- Rio suggests that we continue working on the PR as we have been - she will do Facebook, Angel will do Fetlife, we will set up a Twitter account and have Ramsey Tweet.

## **Recorder (Summer):**

- Review & Approval of April minutes. Rio moves to accept April Minutes, Angel seconded. Voted; 5 in favor, one abstention.

## **Volunteer Coordinator (open):**

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- How will we handle volunteering until we have someone in this position? Is there a list of volunteers that Ann can provide? Tracy says there is a Yahoo group with a list of volunteers, [exilevolunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:exilevolunteer@yahoo.com). Lou and Tracy to work on this until we get a new VC.

## WebSite Manager (Countess):

- There may be an error on the website regarding membership prorating costs..
- Visits from organic search (google, bing, etc) have reached an all time high!
- During the time I have been tracking, our most visited page of all time, after the home page, is "orientation". I am so glad we have an orientation officer to tackle conversions.
- As expected, visits from email/lists are down due mostly to our lacking a Outreach/PR officer.

## Sergeant at Arms (Ann): (Absent)

## April Program – what worked, what didn't

- There were too many assistants for this program, 6 people got in free. Program should have been shortened more to fit in time for Demo. It was agreed that the hands-on portion was well liked by those in attendance. Val suggests reminding presenters that they only get 1 comped person. Lou suggests we make a statement in the newsletter. Lou motion to adjust the policies to let presenters have 2 assistants and additional assistant will be let in at the member rate. Val seconded.!

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## NEXT STEPS FOR THE FRINGE

### From the Editor:

As you may have noticed, this is a very truncated newsletter this month. What can we do to add to this endeavor? Send me words! Send me op-ed pieces (250-300 words!), article ideas, heck, even erotica! Every month, I hope to have one contribution from a member. Will it be you? Only if you send it along to [fringe\\_editor@theexiles.org](mailto:fringe_editor@theexiles.org).

I want to be clear with you, that as I get started, there will be growing pains. I will be transparent in all the changes you can expect to see, and in how the process works. This is not my only current editing gig, but it will receive all the attention I have to give. I want to make this a product you are proud of, but that means you must take pride in it, too. Please, share with me your writings, articles, op-ed pieces, etc. I'm looking for this newsletter to grow with its audience, not against. The formatting and style will change as things are made better, please be a part of that. Email me your ideas, I'm willing to work with writers to get their stories into the newsletter provided they can meet our requirements. [fringe\\_editor@theexiles.org](mailto:fringe_editor@theexiles.org) is the quickest way to reach me.

Thanks, and happy kinking!

Lina