

## May Program:

# Bootblacking Basics & Beyond

Presented by Q and Skittles

Friday, May 23, 2014, 8-10:15 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.)

Center for Sex and Culture (1349 Mission in SF, between 9th and 10th)

What is bootblacking?

How do you get started?

What does it mean to give good chair?

What do you get out of it?

These are a few of the questions Skittles and Q will be answering in their presentation for us on Friday, May 23rd. They will also be covering contents of a basic boot kit, basic blacking techniques, and their own individual connections to bootblacking. So come join us and be sure to bring your kits and your questions.

### About Our Presenters

**Skittles** is an East Coast Bay Area transplant dapper queer with seven years' experience playing in and out of the BDSM community. An experienced rope switch, she is currently running the San Francisco Hitchin Bitches where she can usually be found giggling in rope. Skittles is also developing her skills as a bootblack, both publicly and privately.

**Q** is a queer, poly/non-monogamous leather boi. Q has presented on a number of topics both abroad and in the U.S. An activist for over fifteen years and a certified sex educator, he is passionate about bringing together the various communities he is part of through education and adult film. This charming and flirtatious southern boi resides in Oakland, travels extensively for work and play, and is always on the lookout for new adventures along the way. Q is honored to hold the titles of International Ms Bootblack 2008 and Southeast Leatherfest Bookblack 2007.

### Program Meeting Information:

- All women (and those whose gender self-identification is other than male) over 18 are welcome.
- Members \$4; non-members \$10. Please have membership card or ID ready to speed entry.
- ASL interpretation is available on request. Please contact Lou at [mzconductor@gmail.com](mailto:mzconductor@gmail.com) at least three days in advance if you need an ASL interpreter, and one will be provided.
- Visit our [website](#) for more information.
- Directions to the Center for Sex & Culture, located at 1349 Mission Street, between 9th and 10th Streets, in San Francisco. It is 2 blocks from the Civic Center BART station and the J, K, L, M, and T MUNI Metro lines. There is ample street parking in the area.

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## April Program Report

by Judith

**Zemis** presented the program **Whips from Erotic Pleasure to Cathartic Needs**, but it was really about *connection* – with the use of whips as the conductor of the connection. Using whips is a way of staying in the moment and being present.

For Zemis, whips are not *just* about connection but also about music, rhythm, dancing, giggles, and tuning out the world and tuning in to the inner world. She exemplifies the “play” in playing. In connecting with her bottom, she listens carefully to voice, body language, breathing, and facial expression. Creativity is key as is being spontaneous.

The hit of a whip keeps the bottom connected to her. She spoke at length about technique, different types of whips (and handed them out for us to look at), and how to care for them. If the top is having trouble getting the whip to hit the mark, maybe the whip needs to be “rolled.” She demonstrated hitting her bottom with a blanket over her and said that was a good way to start with a new partner, as a way to build trust. She also mentioned different kinds of “mind fucks” (e.g., tying one leg down and letting the other leg be free).

Zemis discussed her “whip teachers,” and it was clear that Zemis has been studying and practicing for years to become as proficient as she is. She made it look easy, like any athlete with an advanced skill level.

Zemis, as a play partner, is the best of both worlds: a top who is highly skilled in technique but is also playful, creative, connected, and knows that what it’s really about is the intimacy we create when we play with each other.

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## Club News

- **Our June business meeting is Sunday, June 1**, at the Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library, 6501 Telegraph in Oakland, 5-7 p.m. Please join us – all members are welcome!
- The next **New Member Orientation: BDSM 101** will be held on **Friday, June 6**, at the SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St., SF, 7:30-10:00 p.m. Tell your kinky friends! It's \$10, but they'll get a *free* pass to an Exiles program. Members can come in for free and schmooze.
- **SF Pride is coming, and it's a great opportunity to meet lots of kinky women** in a casual environment. Just volunteer to do a shift for the Exiles in Leather Alley! Spread the word about our club while checking out all the kinksters. If you can pitch in with setup, teardown, and/or a shift at our booth, please contact [cocos@theexiles.org](mailto:cocos@theexiles.org).
- Speaking of SF Pride... **Congratulations to Exiles' member Deborah Hoffman-Wade, elected as Leather Marshall for this year's Pride parade!**

## Honoring Ms. Margaret

by Rio

Ms. Margaret, a longtime supporting member of the Exiles, died on April 29 after a six-month battle with cancer. She was the founder and producer of the annual Northwest Leather Celebration, the weekend event which hosts the Northwest Master/Slave contest. Ms. Margaret also enjoyed volunteering at Exiles programs and other leather events, and many times gave her service as a contest judge. She strongly supported the active presence of women in leather. Her passing leaves a huge hole in our community and our hearts, and our sympathy goes out to her slave erich.



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## The Exiles at IMsL

The Exiles once again had the privilege of hosting a Hospitality Suite for the International Ms. Leather (IMsL) weekend. It was exciting because we were at a new venue, the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, the site of the Northwest Leather celebration (NWLC) for the last few years. We once again offered our Champagne and Chocolate reception. Thanks to those who volunteered to make the event happen, with special thanks to Ali, Sam, and Rio.

The venue was two adjoining rooms with a huge patio area. The food was an amazing array of chocolate cupcakes (with peanut butter, salted caramel, and dark chocolate frosting), chocolate candy, fruit, and a delicious chocolate fountain surrounded by an exciting array of “dippables.” We served champagne and sparkling juice, using our very own classy set of champagne flutes. The festivities lasted two hours, and the partygoers seemed to enjoy the sweets and the company. Thanks to everyone who helped make this another successful signature event.

**And don't forget to join us at the Champagne and Chocolate Reception at NWLC on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose!**

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## **Frameline38: San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival: The Exiles named co-presenters again!**

Frameline, the San Francisco LGBT film festival, has asked us to be a Community Partner by co-presenting the film *Folsom Forever*. This is great news for the club, because we get:

- Mention on their [website](#)
- Four tickets to the screening
- The chance for a club representative to go onstage and promote our club before the screening
- **A bunch of free tickets for matinee performances**, to be given out to our members. (NOTE: we usually get them at the last minute. We expect to have them by our June program.)

There is no cost to us for this benefit; they ask us to “help publicize the screening via our website, newsletter, and social media sites.” So please expect some email messages about this as the date approaches, and as the full festival schedule is published.

**Please come to our June program for a *very good* chance to get *free* matinee tickets for the festival films!**

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## Exiles Members Win Golden Dildeaux Awards!

The [Golden Dildeaux Awards](#) are humorous awards given out each year by the Golden Gate Guards, benefitting the AIDS Emergency Fund. The awards are won based on cash donations. It costs \$1 per vote, and you can vote as many times as you like. This, of course, means you can totally buy the election! Did we mention? They are humorous awards!

The Dildeaux were started by Mister Marcus Hernandez in 1972 and have been given out every year since. This year there were 24 awards given out, including “Big Sur” (the top of them all), and “Moonrise Kingdom” (best looking ass in the 9 Bay Area counties).

This year, a number of Exiles members were nominated for awards, and we brought three of them home! Angel won “The To do list” (pushiest pushy bottom) and Val won both “The Iron Lady” (best butch woman) and “The Great Beauty” (hottest current titleholder). Yup, those prizes were bought and paid for!

Raquela opened the ceremony with a rousing song sung to the tune of “Venus,” using a different word that is more topical for Dildeaux. The awards were given out. Shenanigans were had. And the total raised for the AIDS Emergency Fund, at over \$4000, broke a Dildeaux record! Fun times.

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**Business Meeting Minutes, April 2014** *(Note that since we now publish minutes a month in arrears (so that they can be approved by the biz group before publication), what you see here may not be the latest information. If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to contact [cocos@theexiles.org](mailto:cocos@theexiles.org) or come to the next biz meeting.)*

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**Attendees:** Ali, Angel, Jessica, Judith, Lee, Marilyn, Matt, Rio, Samantha, Val

### Core Business:

**April Program Plans:** Officer and volunteer duties assigned for whips program with Zemis.

**Postmortem of March Program** (Elections and Game Night): There were more games than people. Attendance was not good, but the elections went very smoothly. We've had movie nights with the elections in the past; Jessica suggested a snuggle-pile movie night.

**Discussion of Possible Future Programs:** We need a back-up plan for May.

**February and March minutes were approved.**

### Old Business:

**Review of action items list.**

**Review of Online Decisions:** None.

**IMsL Hospitality Suite:** Ali will be the point person on doing event. Tracy is making chocolates. Need to make sure there is access to elevators and remember that there is no kitchen access.

## Old Business, April 2014, continued...

**NWLC Sponsorship and Hospitality Suite:** Ms. Margaret and erich proposed that if we hold what they consider a "signature event" as usual, that will constitute a Silver-level sponsorship. Marilyn is considering being the point person on this and will coordinate purchasing supplies with Ali. Angel will provide the shopping list.

**Calendar issue:** Neither Alchemy nor the Women's Building are available for June 6 orientation. SF LGBT Center *is* available, and Rio will book that.

## New Business:

### OFFICER ELECTIONS:

- **Results of member voting:**
  - Marilyn elected Membership Officer
  - Write-in for Sam as Co-coordinator (will revisit in a few months, since she has a shorter tenure in community than most who fill this position)
  - Write-ins for Lee as Recorder, Deborah Wade as Recorder, and Angel as Treasurer. They all declined, but Angel offered to continuing doing our taxes and tasks related to our 501(c)(3) filing – and to help whoever does this position
- **Appointed officer positions**
  - Doorkeeper: Lee
  - Newsletter Editor: Suzanne
  - Orientation: Val will help transition to new person in interim
  - Outreach/PR: Sam
  - Sergeant-at-Arms: Jessica
  - Volunteer Coordinator: **we still need someone for this vital position**
  - Website Manager: Countess stepped down; Val will do it with assistance from both Ali and Marilyn
  - Recorder: we still need someone

**Lifetime membership for Daddy Sal voted on and approved.**

**Presenter Guidelines:** These have been revised (thanks to Marilyn). We'd like to get them on our website.

**Articles Change re: reciprocity passed at election:** If someone can prove that they're a member of a reciprocal organization, they can join the Exiles without having to attend Orientation.

**Portland Leather Alliance:** They are asking for reciprocity, but their safety orientation (requirement for reciprocity with the Exiles) is optional. Most members have attended the orientation. A second tier of reciprocal organizations was proposed and discussed. Articles change will be discussed at next meeting.

## **New Business, April 2014, continued...**

**Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project:** QWOCMAP would like us to again partner with them. Their film festival is June 13-15 at the Brava Theater in SF. This is not in our budget, but individual members will make contributions to make this possible.

**Folsom Meet & Greet:** Folsom Street Fair is a week earlier this year, the same week as our program. Proposed and voted that we have a meet & greet followed by a party in lieu of a September program. Val, as local titleholder, happy to cohost. Rio and Jessica will research venues.

**Proposal: Exiles patches given to early membership renewers.** First twenty people who renew their membership, starting June 1, will receive a small Exiles patch. We have inventory already.

**Proposal: Raise household membership rate.** This rate was first proposed when the cost of printing and mailing newsletters was high. That is no longer the case with e-delivery, so this rate is no longer cost-effective for the club; in fact, it's now detrimental to the club's finances. We have six times as many household memberships (\$42, no matter how many people are in household) than we do individual members (\$36 each). Proposal is to keep individual rate at \$36 and change household rate as follows: \$54 for the first two members (i.e., second person pays half-price), and \$15 each for every additional person in household. This would be a policy change, so it was discussed at this meeting and will be voted upon at the June meeting.

**Report on *Consent Matters* panel** was not given due to time constraints. Marilyn will send out an email about this.

**Lou's mailbox and storage keys:** who should these go to?

### **Next month: should online voting be expanded**

**Policy change:** Proposed change to online voting section as it relates to expenses. Will be published in the April Fringe. All business meeting attendees should be sure that their cell phone numbers are listed (and current) in Google docs spreadsheet.

**Officer Reports:** Noted but not discussed.

**Co-coordinator (Rio):** Asked for quote on Exiles patches. Pins have been ordered and will be ready in time for IMsL.

**Treasurer (Angel):** \$4,056.99 balance; \$441.50 O/s expenses to clear; \$3,615.49 available funds. \$443 due from The Eagle Beer bust.

**Orientation (Val):** Ten people attended. One renewal and six new members joined.

**Doorkeeper (Lee, reported by Marilyn):** Six attendees at March program: five members (including three officers) and one non-member. Free program, so no money collected. Misha received a lesson in how to do the door.

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## New Business, April 2014, continued...

**Membership (Marilyn):** No new members this month, although got a couple of contacts about renewing. Starting to think about renewal season.

**Website Manager (Countess):** Website visits are up dramatically, from 614 to 1008. Last month was the best month in the past year. The vast majority of this increase is from organic search 300 to 634 – more than doubling. This is due to recent changes in the website content and structure, including the pings (calls) to Google and other search engines when new content is added to our website. Countess does not wish to see reappointment.

Meeting adjourned.

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## Exiles Officers

Co-Coordinator:	Rio and tbd
Treasurer:	open (Angel interim)
Membership Officer:	Marilyn
Recorder:	open
Orientation Officer:	open (Val interim)
Website Manager:	Val
Sergeant-At-Arms:	Jessica
Doorkeeper:	MadPink
Newsletter Editor:	Suzanne
Outreach/PR Officer:	Sam
Volunteer Coordinator:	(open)

<http://theexiles.org/contact/>