

Leather History Preservation Weekend Keynote

November 2018 – 90 minute dinner keynote outline

Tomo

Note to the reader:

This was a 90 minute keynote and therefore not a scripted speech. This document is the outline that I used along with a powerpoint presentation of pictures I shared during. I am not able to share the pictures as I do not have consent from all involved to publish them to the internet. Sadly, the recording of this speech failed and we are left with the fond memory and this outline.

Thank you

To know who I am as a Leather Person, start at beginning and know the full me. All of the events in my life have influenced me to create who I am as a leather person.

Born in the Bronx

Italian Family and I was raised in Italian culture

During a recent trip to Italy, I was so comfortable there and thought MY PEOPLE

People were yelling at each other in the street and the tour guide said – they are discussing the price of the fish today! I felt like I finally found people like me!

Recently Ma'am found a quote that said "I'm not loud, I am Italian!"

Before any Boston based boo-birds start, the reason for the logo is that being Yankee fans goes back

generations in my family. My grandfather and brothers were actually friends with Joe Dimaggio and it was said that he and Marilyn visited my Nana's house for many Sunday macaroni dinners. This picture taken in April 1938 portrayed Joe after being left at Yankee Stadium at the end of Spring Training for being out of shape, about to take batting practice with my Grandfather and his brothers there with him to shag balls.

I was not only into the Yankees, I was also very interested in uniforms early on. This was taken at one of those photo booths where they take your picture and insert it into a famous person, in this case Jason Giambi and a very young me.

As far back as I can remember, I was drawn to the military.

This picture when I was 4 with a childhood friend...

Moments after the picture, I ran with that wooden gun, cut chin so deeply it required surgery

I remember my mother telling me that also around this age, I had come into possession of an enlisted US Navy dixie cup cover. This is the round white canvas hat that got its nickname due to looking like a common Dixie paper drinking cup. As a young child in a traditional Italian household, I was raised believe it or not, with very long hair, even at that young age. Apparently, I found a pair of scissors and cut off most of my hair. When my mother asked why I did that, I replied “so it looks right with the hat, Mom”.

As you can see, I always enjoyed dressing up

Moved to upstate NY at 5

Rough childhood growing up, abused by my stepfather

Culminating in me leaving home 2 days after High school graduation

My mother and stepfather found a letter from my then first girlfriend, which left little to the imagination

My stepfather beat me while my mother watched and I left my childhood home limping down the street

Put myself financially through college

It was difficult, I remember only having a meal plan during the week because I could not afford the one that included weekends

I also did have some fun. I had a lot of girlfriends,

Div 1 sports in soccer and softball

Participated in the first NCAA women's college world series

College however was like a job. I had to get through it to get a job and support myself.

Graduated on-time

Started producing events - helped produce women's music concerts in New York and Long Island (Chris Williamson, Lucy Blue Trembley and many others)

Coaching soccer and softball

After college I landed the job I so needed to be financially stable on my own

I have worked in IT for 35 years

Started as a Systems Analyst, then Corporate Trainer, now IT Director

Tend to have long term relationships

Only 3 jobs since college in IT, and am in my current job for 27 years

Martial Arts

Began at 23 years old and still training and teaching today

Became a teacher very early

Teaching helped me find peace and empowerment

Found and learned about Community

Opened a school and learned about developing Community and leadership

Mel – 1995

While serving on a board of directors for a women's martial arts organization, I met my life partner Mel

Texas

Coming out story

Hidden Door

Corpus christi motorcycle club, Ken Boker

Mel 2nd and only 2nd woman to be a member

Texas Conference of Clubs

Mel rocked my world, introducing me to leather, BDSM and poly

Great Life in NY

Our school, 225 students, 17 years, 45 black belts

dogs

big focus on our jobs and martial arts

NY leather scene: LSM, TES, Hellfire, other
haunts of the day

Over the years, I ended up training and teaching 3
arts

Martial Arts influence on leather immediately,
I GOT IT as a newcomer

I understood and wanted power exchange

Mel and I were not a total match

BDSM vs D/s

Pittsburgh

Embracing poly, began a relationship with a
Dominant for 12 years

Helped produce the first Ms Pittsburgh Leather Contest in 1996

Part of creating the Pittsburgh Leathergrls

Met friends who joined me in creating the D.U.C.

D.U.C.

No club for women in uniform

Spent time at DC events: Black Rose, ABW

Hung out with the MOD

Founders formed the D.U.C. 1998 (blade, kane, gunner, butch)

Founders retired, no big drama, people move on

The D.U.C. strayed from our mission and I re-formed in 2008

Our mission has essentially remained the same-

The Dyke Uniform Corps is a private association of women of honor, integrity, and discipline whose

mission is to share a common interest in the wearing of military, law enforcement, and emergency response personnel uniforms within the s/m, leather and fetish communities.

We added emergency response personnel uniforms for those who did not wish to wear police or military uniforms

and also changed language to be more welcoming of trans folks

Take a close look at the name you choose for your club! There are issues with the name Dyke Uniform Corps

- Open to Trans
- Open to not just dykes
- The obvious DUCK

Over the years lots of fun

We also created additional rules to limit the wearing of ribbons or medals not earned out of respect

Celebrating 20 years in 2018

MJ

When I realized I needed power exchange, it was not only surrender that I craved.

I am wired as a dominant, as a leader and I knew I also needed to have a boy who belonged to me.

I met MJ a few years after coming out in leather and he belonged to me as my boy for 5 years.

Sad ending with his illness.

Meeting a Master for the first time

About 9 years into the relationship with the dominant in Pittsburgh, he became involved with an alpha partner. I ended up belonging to both of them.

She was the first master I had ever met.

Inspired in ways I never was

For the first time, asked to do something I had not already wanted

Found surrender for the first time

Realized, I am a slave

slave has no gender

gender is butch

Implosion

IMsL (2008 – 2013)

Call to Glenda

Produced IMsL from 2008 to 2013

In charge of operations

(reg/security/silent
auction/vendors/playspace/volunteers)

My community saved me

Thru IMsL, I met my Master Ms Rhonda

Starting flirting on the first staff conference call

Incredible experience producing IMsL

But it came with a sad ending for the 3 of us

Talking to Ms Tori about this keynote

tell your story, you were there

Inspired to tell what actually happened...

Ma'am

Loving, caretaking Master

Began this incredible journey together

We built our D/s relationship for 3 years

she collared me as her slave 7 years ago

First Butch/Femme relationship

During her first visit...Mel and the corset story

learned who I am – Samurai

She allows me to be my full powerful self, and she enjoys that!

Levi

I had met Levi many years prior

At the time, with Glenda

Took Glenda telling me it was okay

Levi petitioned to serve me

Belong to a slave

Levi has belonged to me for 10 years and I am proud
to have him as my boy

Move to CA

About 8 years ago, Ma'am and I were wine tasting

bid 350

Maám – a – flat

The move was very hard for me

my school

laura

family, grandchild (now 5 grandchildren!)

untied myself story

Adjustments in poly

Best thing I ever did.

Leather Family

We have an amazing leather family.

Mel, Maám and I are at the core

Levi and Pixie in service to us as well as Levi's wife

Leo and there's THE DADDY

Sir David Labriola (Daddy!)

Sir DaddyDaun, slavegirl J

The good and the bad of leather family

Titleholders

In March of 2015, we decided to run for NWM/s

This decision was inspired by us wanting to support the NW region a need to tell our stories

- me, as somebody who thought I could not be a slave because I was powerful and dominant
- and Ms Rhonda wanting to speak about femme women as Masters

We won Northwest Master and slave 2015, and went on to win International Master and slave 2016

It was quite a ride! We traveled to 43 events during our International Title year and had a blast.

It was not all fun. There were many hard moments, physically, emotionally, and stress on our relationship.

Now, post titleholder travel...Life in CA on our 42 acres in a pine forest is filled with

a slower life than NY

lots of hanging out in the backyard and by the pool

and sometimes even being still and resting

There is farming, Mel learning about BIG power tools

and of course...our Chickens

whoever thought this Bronx boy would talk to and

pet chickens

There is still quite a lot of Martial Arts

We built a school on our property and I continue to teach weekly classes and travel around the country presenting seminars.

4 years ago, my teacher died and left the responsibility of running his system and organization to me

One of the fun things I've started doing lately is volunteering in town.

Let me tell you about...Charlie Parkhurst

Placerville is an old gold rush town

Very into the history and maintaining the old west look and feel

Monthly, there is a stagecoach downtown

Ran into the cowboys

Not the bussel type...

Continue to be very involved in leather community

- Member of QLAS (webmaster)
- Director of MAsT Sacramento
- Member of MAsT San Francisco
- General and Senior Officer of the D.U.C.
- Recently became the West Coast Curator for the Leather Quilt
- Member of Exiles

In 2015, we created KinkED Productions

Produce day-long educational intensives

Raise money for the NW Travel Fund

About halfway through our International title year

Erich...

NWLC Struggled Ms Margeret's death

Timing isn't always perfect but...

Together with Erich, we became owners and producers of Northwest Leather Celebration

We produce three contests

Our plan once we stepped down from International Master/slave was to produce Ms Sacramento Leather

Has not been produced in 20 years

Just 3 weeks ago, we produced the 2018 Ms Sacramento Leather giving Lady Hilary the opportunity to step down after 20 years

I continue to serve my the community

So reward by teaching

Recently at MsC a person came up to me and said “you changed my life”

Not the first time in the leather community or in the martial arts that this has happened and it touches me heart each time

Also continue to serve my community by:

- Producing Events
- Emcee-ing
- Keynote

In writing this, it occurred to me that I have done a lot in the past 23 years. However, in my mind - just like I still feel like the 20 years old in the first few pictures I showed, and I still believe myself to be a beginner in the martial arts...

I am just getting started with all that I want to do in service for the leather community.

I look forward to the many more adventures that my Master, Mel and our leather family will share together.