

Alameda County Leather Corps Newsletter

December 2015: Vol 24, Issue 1



WHY ACLC?

By Lady Cynthia and Mr. Allan

Upon hearing about Alameda County Leather Corps, most people ask, *What do you do?* Well, we raise money for charity, kind of like The Junior League, but with more interesting outfits. (You can't get what we wear at Coldwater Creek.)

This past year, we contributed \$11,866.00 to roughly a dozen groups working for the Alameda County community at large. (The complete list is on our website at <http://www.acleather.org>)

But seriously, why does all the effort of our club go to making donations? We give money to numerous causes and it's not easy raising funds.

At the recent Board Retreat, we discussed why each of us gives time and work for people we don't know. This year, we gave money to Children's Hospital Oakland to help seriously ill children (in the HIV and infectious disease ward) get care they need. Well, that's all well and good, but none of *my* grandchildren have any serious sickness, so why worry about it?

Sometimes, we're moved to help people who are deaf, hungry, or are suffering from HIV. Again, there's a temptation to say *Well, it's not in my family, so why is it something I should work to change?*

As a wonderful mystic once said, "The Force is strong in your family" Which is, of course, from a movie, but still rings true. Many of the spiritual values we hold prompt us to care for others.

In the Pagan tradition, every living thing comes from the Mother of all and therefore is our kin. We also believe that what you put out into the world is what the world gives back to you. Strengthening others, making the world a better place and lessening suffering are things all of us would like to see in this world.

Mr. Allan told me that in the Jewish tradition, performing a selfless act without expectation of recompense is called "making a mitzvah", and it's done to ease suffering in the world, starting with one's own community. (This may be the original version of "Think Globally, Act Locally"!)

The passage from childhood (when one's needs are taken care of by others) to adulthood (when one takes care of the needs of others) is based in this concept.

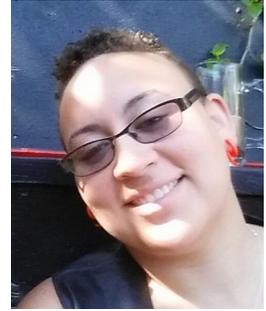
As folks who practice alternative lifestyles, we often speak of community. Humans are social beings and interacting with others in a context of acceptance and support is critical to our personal well being. One definition of "Community" is "*a group of people having cultural, religious, ethnic, or other characteristics in common.*"

Each of us needs community and when we give back to the community we are strengthening the community and our connection to it through local effort to address local needs. With your help, together, we're all making a mitzvah with every event we hold, every dollar we raise.

Our New Titleholder!

By Lady Cynthia and Krystal Cade

This past August, ACLC crowned a new Ms. Alameda County Leather. It was a fun and exciting contest. I'm pleased to have the honor of presenting to you Ms. Alameda County 2015, Krystal Cade, who says:



Hi, everyone! As your new titleholder, I'm very excited at all of the activities we're planning for this year. I really love this club and all that we do.

While one person can help to make a difference, we as a group have immense power to save lives and help those who are struggling. And we really do make a difference. I am beyond honored to have the privilege to be a part of it.

Be on the lookout for fun activities and events we have planned for you guys! We are going to have a blast!

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 5, 2015: Santa's Slave Auction

Now you can have your very own slave...at least for a little while. We'll be auctioning off slaves with all sorts of special (non-sexual) services and talents, along with wonderful home-made goodies such as Fawn's cookies or Mama P.'s jams and jellies!

Time: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Location: The World Famous Turf Club, 22519 Main St, Hayward, CA 94541

Thursday, December 10, 2015: General Assembly

Come join us for our monthly meeting, to find out how much we've raised, what the next events will be, and more!

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: BAYC/Our Place, 22245 Main Street, Suite 200, Hayward, CA 94541

January 14, 2016: General Assembly & White Elephant Gift Exchange

It's our annual post-holiday Holiday Party! Bring a wrapped present (something you'd like to receive) for the gift exchange (no chair arms or similar gag gifts, please!), bring some food for a potluck dinner, and prepare to have a great time! As usual, we expect our annual gift exchange to feature stealing, trading, bargaining...and maybe some interesting begging.

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: The World Famous Turf Club, 22519 Main St, Hayward, CA 94541

Club Committees

There is an old saying, “*Many hands make light work*” (There’s also “*Too many cooks spoil the broth*”, but we’re not going there right now.)

This is a shameless plug for members to step up and join a committee. We need many hands to keep the Corps going!

Please consider joining a committee! Just contact the chair (they’re the first person listed below) for each committee that appeals to you.

- **Newsletter and Public Relations:** Lady Cynthia, Mr. Allan
- **Events:** Jay Williams, Krystal Cade
- **Contest:** Kim Croteau, Krystal Cade, Jay Williams, Uncle Drew
- **Education:** Luna Bear
- **Bylaws and Policies:** Lady Cynthia, Mr. Allan, Mr. Randy
- **Membership & Logo:** Uncle Drew

Thank you for reading this issue!

The newsletter will be published quarterly, and as your new editor, I'm happy to have this opportunity to serve the Corps. Our next issue will have more pictures and news...especially if you send both to me!

The newsletter can be found on the website.

Your Editrix,

Lady Cynthia

newsletter@acleather.org

Alameda County Leather Corps – 2015-2016 Board of Directors

Ms. ACL 2015.....	Krystal Cade.....	msacl@acleather.org
President.....	Jay Williams.....	president@acleather.org
Vice-President.....	Uncle Drew.....	vicepresident@acleather.org
Secretary.....	Mr. Allan.....	secretary@acleather.org
Treasurer.....	Randy Hensley.....	treasurer@acleather.org
Sergeant-at-Arms.....	Lady Cynthia.....	sergeantatarms@acleather.org
Member At Large.....	Luna Bear.....	membersatlarge@acleather.org
To email entire board.....		board@acleather.org