

M/S CONNECTIONS

— BY MAST: INTERNATIONAL, SPRING, 2020, 7TH EDITION —

Welcome to Our Newest MAsT Chapters!

MAsT: Cleveland, OH

MAsT: Ann Arbor, MI



Many Thanks, Master Liza!

The Board of MAsT: International would thanks Master Liza for the years of service she has donated to MAsT. Seventeen years ago, she joined us in MAsT: Greater San Francisco Bay Area. Later, she became director of the first MAsT chapter – MAsT: San Francisco around 2008. Then she joined MAsT: Portland and served there as director. In 2011, she then stepped onto the MAsT: International board and served as Treasurer until 2017 and then as Director of Operations from 2018-2020. While on the board, Liza was a key member of the team that helped transition us from Butchmann's Inc. to the standalone non-profit organization that we are today. We appreciate all she has done and am glad she remains a member of her MAsT: Portland a part of the MAsT family.



Member's Choice Presenter of the Year Award 2020: Daddy Daun & slavegirl j

At our Annual General Meeting in March at South Plains Leatherfest, the MAsT: International's Members Choice Presenter of the Year Award for 2020 was presented to Master Daddy Daun and slavegirl j! Congratulations!

For details, please check out the write up at <https://www.mast.net/news.php>



Covid 19 News: A Note from the Board

With the attention and discussion of many of us on what to do with regards to attending chapter meetings and COVID19, the Board would like to offer the following:

- We respect the right of each chapter to determine what is best for their membership and community.
- We encourage the chapters to use their best judgement on how to meet and when/where to meet. Please have a discussion with your membership and see what works for all of you.
- If you decide to use an online/virtual means of meeting, such as video conferencing, we encourage you to remember the need for privacy and discretion, and take appropriate steps to provide the same level online/virtual as you would having your face to face meetings.
- If your membership decides to suspend meetings for a month or two, we completely understand and support that decision. Just please let your Regional Representative know.
- If at anytime, you have any questions regarding meetings, please reach out to your Regional Representative.
- Thank you to all the chapter directors and the Regional Council for all that you do. Let us know how we can best help with any of this.

For recommendations on **Running a Virtual MAsT Meeting during the COVID-19 Shelter in Place**, please visit <https://www.mast.net/news.php>

Definiton of Mental Health according to the World Health Organisation



In Uncertain Times

In these uncertain times, the well being of many people is being affected. If you are having challenges with your own well being, please reach out to a friend, a loved one or a mental health professional. Sheltering in Place for long periods is not easy for many folks, neither is the concern that Covid 19 has brought to our lives. Make sure your taking care of yourself and if you know someone who is struggling or think might be struggling, reach out. And not just in text - a friendly voice or some video time with another person can make a big difference. Take care everyone!

Where in the World We Are

[Check out our MAsT Chapters Map!](#)





Member's Spotlight this Fall: Master Taino & slave paul

Many thanks to Master Taino and slave Paul for their transparency and giving of themselves.

How many years have you been in a power exchange relationship?

Master Taino: I have been in Master/slave relationships for 21 years. My current relationship with slave Paul started ten years ago when he was welcome in our Leather Family in May 2010 and finally became my slave on October 11, 2011.

slave Paul: I joined Master Taino's leather family on 5/20/2010 where I received my family patch, nametag and collar of protection. On 10/9/2011 I was formally collared as his slave.

How long have you been a MAsT member? What are your role(s) in MAsT?

Master Taino: 21 years. I founded MAsT Washington in 1999 right after I returned from MAsT 99 event in Atlanta. On September 1998, I was invited to a meeting of MAsT San Francisco, the original chapter. That was my introduction to MAsT and why I decided to start a chapter.

slave Paul: I began my journey with MAsT in 2005/6 assisting slave wen and Master Curtis with MAsT: Southern Maine. In 2009, with my moving to Virginia, joined MAsT: Washington DC.

What benefits have you found being a member of MAsT?

Master Taino: MAsT has been part of my journey since Day 1. I have grown personally and lead others through MAsT. Being the chapter director for 21 years is something I am very proud of.

slave Paul: MAsT has been a place that I can feel free to ask questions, learn and share all aspects about my journey in M/s. Also including when I came out publicly as a Little.

What are some of the highlights in your power exchange journey?

Master Taino: My involvement with MAsT got me into looking for opportunities to teach and help others. I started what is known today as the MTTA Academy back in 2001, then I founded MTTA and the Master/slave Conference in 2004 and has dedicated the last two decades to the education of the M/s Community. Since 2015, I started traveling annually to Costa Rica where I have been able to teach and assist in developing the community in that Central American country. I also assist them in the creation of the MAsT: San José, Costa Rica chapter in 2019.

slave Paul: The most important date in my journey was Thanksgiving 2011 when My Bio parents joined Master and I for Thanksgiving dinner. We gathered with Bio family, Leather family and friends. This day was the day that Master accepted not only me but my parents too. On the flip side it was the day that my parents accepted the fact that Master was an important part of my life and that I now had a place to belong. To this day my Mother calls Master... Master!

The second most important date was just a few years ago when Master Taino accepted me as a little with all the good that comes with that. There was no judgment or expectations but pure acceptance. He has since grown in his own journey to understand that when I spend time with my Daddy, I come back in a better headspace as his slave. He has even grown to experience play with other Littles, opening up deep conversations between us on the topic.

What's a low moment in your power exchange journey and how did you recover or what did you learn from it?

Master Taino: Lowest moments were when I lost slave Tommy to AIDS in 2001 and slave David to an accident in 2014. I live with the mantra to accept the things I cannot change and in both cases I was able to move on although they are not forgotten by any means. Others' losses of members of my Leather Family as well as the two closest Leather siblings I had have been very tough to process.

slave Paul: My lowest moment with Master was when he was considering a boy to join the house. This boy acted as a privileged millennial that didn't have to help out or do any work in the house. Master failed to notice that our relationship (which is based on managerial/domestic only) was being undermined by this new boy. After many chats about dealing with issues came to a point of me confronting Master with a choice. He could either have the boy (that was just a boarder in the house and did nothing) or me (that did what was needed doing). Facing Master with that choice was not something that I took lightly and it hurt that it came to that decision. Since then we have had others come through the house and I

believe Master has learned that when I bring up issues he needs to listen more and act accordingly.

What's an interesting fact about you that most people don't know?

Master Taino: Although I have been outspoken about it, many people still don't know that I am a single adoptive parent of three grown up sons and foster parent of two other and now have four granddaughters.

slave Paul: I am a Little. Medical issues from birth and the fact that I'm diabetic has left me with an incontinence issue which presented issues of acceptance because I have to wear diapers all the time. In a class by a well-known Master in California called "The Manna of fetish" I was given "permission" to be who I was and to explore the life of ABDL's and Littles. I thank him often because it has changed my life for the better in so many ways.

Do you have any advice for people new to power exchange relationships or new chapter directors?

Master Taino: There is no substitute to education. Learning from your peers and attending educational events is key to the success of your relationships and your journey.

slave Paul: From a slave's perspective: Don't allow an M types or D types take away who you are. When they accept you, they accept you with ALL that you are... good, bad, and ugly. Be proud of who you are and what you bring to the table. You are enough and seen... be proud of that. You are a person first and foremost... a slave second!

From my perspective: focus on the relationship... without that solid and in place nothing else will work. M/s will come when the two understand each other. When you really look at the relationship there is more of a duality then a dichotomy. The pair should work together using each other's strengths.

What's your favorite quote and why?

Master Taino: "I am who I am and I'm not ashamed of it, not one bit." from Master Jack McGeorge.

slave Paul: I have two quotes that I live by:

1. By Vince Lombardi: "Perfection is not attainable, but if you reach for perfection you will reach excellence."

This quote speaks to me as an OCD slave! My bar is always set to perfection, but I know that I will never reach that. I can only reach my personal best... my excellence!

2. By Popeye the Sailor: "I am what I am, and that's all that I am."

This quote speaks to my little side. I am Paul... that incorporates "slave Paul," "bubby" (my little), Paul (son, brother), employee and many other personas. I am not one or the other, but one as a whole being.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Master Taino: MAsT and the Master/slave Community has been integral part of my life journey and key to me being my authentic self. I have been able to teach and meet so many wonderful people during the last two decades. Being able to make a difference, small or big, in other people lives is a special blessing and extremely rewarding. I cherish immensely feeling the love and respect from my peers and my community. It has been quite a ride.

slave Paul: I totally understand that I have non-conforming thought processes. I am in no way your cookie cutter slave. But what I do have is individuality. I am my own person. That is what makes my relationship with Master Taino work. We are partners in our endeavor to bring MSc and other educational functions to others that seek honesty and transparency about what we do and why we do it. Education is the motto of our family and what keeps it together.



Congratulations to the Rooks!

Our 2020 International Master and slave titleholders are Master Rook and slave Rook!

Your Regional Reps!

Regional Representatives

Australia and New Zealand: [slave kim](#), [Master Tag](#)
and Master Joe (Regional Representative Emeritus)

Europe: [Master Michael](#)

Great Lakes: [slave Lyon](#) and [Master Mactep](#)

Northeast: [Master Dante](#)

Northwest: [slave evelyn](#)

Southeast: [Master IceDog](#)

Southwest: [Lady Morgan](#)



MAst Chat

We have an e-group for all MAsT members called MAsT Chat! Just email [koneko](#) with your name, email and which MAsT chapter you belong to and she will get you added! And feel free to post thoughts, ideas, questions, whatever you'd like to share across the MAsT family.

Your MAsT: International Board of Directors!

Chief Executive Officer: [Ms Suzan](#)

Director of Operations: [Master Michael](#)

Secretary: [slave passion](#)

Financial Officer: [Master John](#)

Regional Representative Director: [Master Michael](#)

Membership Director: [Master Rodin](#)

Marketing Director: [Master Bill](#)

Education Director: [koneko](#)

IT Director/Webmaster: [Master Paul](#)





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