



The Spirit of Cassadaga

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Editorial Page

Entitlement vs. Service work

Any organization based on a premise of service to the public at large, which is what a 501(c) organization is, provides a service through charitable means, to the public. This service is based in a large part on contributions and volunteer work at no charge, generally with no compensation to the service worker.

The positive part of this is that the mediums, ministers and healers are able to provide continuous and readily available service to those who come to the camp seeking aid at all times of the day or night. They are able to make a vocation of being in service to others.

The down side of this is that sometimes there is an attitude of being "entitled" which replaces an attitude of serving by some of the service workers, whether they are being paid an hourly wage or working by a fee. This means they feel that the organization "owes" them for the services they render. This can be manifested by feeling they are owed a position; use of camp resources, without having to compensate the camp for that use; feel that they are deserving of more of a voice than others or feeling the camp can't survive without them.

Anytime there is a feeling that the organization owes them, instead of being beholden to the organization for providing them the opportunity to practice their particular skill, there is a break down of the fundamental functioning of the charitable aspect of the organization.

The Southern Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp is the reason most of the practitioners are who they are today. Many could not have become who they are today, without the training and opportunities the educational and training programs offered. To say otherwise is a bit egotistical and not true. These opportunities have been provided by mediums, ministers, healers, teachers and other types of members, helping to facilitate the different classes and seminars.

The SCSCMA is the vehicle that provides us the opportunity to serve the public, not the other way around.

Are you a service worker, or do you feel "Entitled"? Where are your heart and your intentions?

Do you still volunteer so that the SCSCMA can continued to provide services and opportunity to others, the same as it has provided to you?

Become involved and help the Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp to continue in its tradition. If you are unable to contribute time, then please contribute financially. No effort or financial contribution is too small to be of help.

Sincerely,
Rev. Stephen G. Adkins, Editor



A good exercise for the heart is to bend down and help someone up!

Comments e-mail [Spirit@cassadaga.org](mailto:spirit@cassadaga.org)



Ministerial Recognition at the Camp

The weekend of October 20th brings special recognition to the Ordained Spiritualist Ministers and Ministerial Students that serve S.C.S.C.M.A.

A Ministerial Meeting is planned for Saturday, Oct 20th at 5:00 pm in the Davis Building. All Ordained Ministers and Ministerial Students are invited to attend. The meeting will be followed by the regular Community Dinner for all Camp Members. A "Ministerial Honoring Ceremony" is scheduled for Sunday, Oct 21st during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Please join us.

When I first came to the camp as a visitor in 1996, Rev. Tom Berkner and Rev. Steve Adkins made very strong impressions on me with their open hearts and open minds. Their "consciousness of service" to everyone who entered Colby Temple touched me and facilitated healing within me. Many, many others have felt a similar love and acceptance when coming to services at Colby Temple from a long line of our Pastors and Ministers. It is apparent to me that the most effective and respected ministry in our camp is that of fostering good human relationships.

To my mind, Spiritualist Ministers endeavor to demonstrate a living relationship of commitment to God with an ability to convey a sense of unfolding spiritual consciousness. As with all Spiritualists, an Ordained Minister develops a working understanding of the Spiritualist philosophy & religion and their ministerial relationship to it. Our Spiritualist Ministers attempt to widen their understanding of their ministry so that is compatible with the goals and purposes of Southern Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp Meeting Association. This is, of course, a work in progress.

We invite you to attend our Sunday Service on Oct 20th as we distinguish our Ordained Ministers and Ministerial Students with love and gratitude.

Dr. Suzanne DeWees, Licentiate Minister
Ministerial Steering Committee





Local Affairs

The Fall season is upon us and the summer heat is finally beginning to subside. With the return of fall comes the return of Medium's Nights, beginning the first Monday of October. Halloween is also right around the corner and preparations to accommodate the huge crowds of people expected here are currently underway. The highlight of Halloween in Camp this year will be during the weekend of October 27th – 28th, whereby visitors will have the opportunity to experience the Spirit of Cassadaga by participating in walking tours, mini-readings, healing, and other events designed to educate and inform.

As the wheels of progress continue to slowly grind forward, many needed improvements to our buildings and grounds continue to take place. The Andrew Jackson Davis Building now has new computerized thermostats designed to more precisely regulate the heating and air conditioning, and to lower electric costs at the same time. The bathroom and kitchen facilities continue to be improved. Just below the surface, new water lines have been added for the Davis Building and surrounding structures, like Harmony Hall. Colby Temple recently received a major cleaning and interior face lift of sorts. Many thanks go to the volunteers who participated in this huge effort.

Ever since the release of the popular album Cassadaga by the group Bright Eyes, earlier this year, media interest in Cassadaga has continued to grow. The Discovery Channel has already done some initial filming here and intends to return soon. Meanwhile, the Travel Channel filmed various activities during the first week of October and CNN's Anderson Cooper is scheduled to film extensively during the Halloween weekend. Stay tuned, literally, as who knows who's going to be filming here next! In any event, all of this public exposure will continue to reap long term benefits for Cassadaga and the many Spiritualists who live and work here.

Contributed by William Deep



Sheep Dogs

William J. Bennett, in a lecture to the United States Naval Academy November 24, 1997 said:
Most of the people in our society are sheep. They are kind, gentle, productive creatures who can only hurt one another by accident. We may well be in the most violent times in history, but violence is still remarkably rare. This is because most citizens are kind, decent people who are not capable of hurting each other, except by accident or under extreme provocation. They are sheep. Then there are the wolves and the wolves feed on the sheep without mercy. Do you believe there are wolves out there who will feed on the flock without mercy? You better believe it. There are evil men in this world and they are capable of evil deeds. The moment you forget that or pretend it is not so, you become a sheep. There is no safety in denial.

Then there are sheepdogs and I'm a sheepdog. I live to protect the flock and confront the wolf. If you have no capacity for violence then you are a healthy productive citizen, a sheep. If you have a capacity for violence and no empathy for your fellow citizens, then you have defined an aggressive sociopath, a wolf. But what if you have a capacity for violence, and a deep love for your fellow citizens? What do you have then? A sheepdog, a warrior, someone who is walking the unchartered path. Someone who can walk into the heart of darkness, into the universal human phobia, and walk out unscathed.

We know that the sheep live in denial; that is what makes them sheep. They do not want to believe that there is evil in the world.

They can accept the fact that fires can happen, which is why they want fire extinguishers, fire sprinklers, fire alarms and fire exits throughout their kids schools. But many of them are outraged at the idea of putting an armed police officer in their kid's school. Our children are thousands of times more likely to be killed or seriously injured by school violence than fire, but the sheep's only response to the possibility of violence is denial. The idea of someone coming to kill or harm their child is just too hard, and so they chose the path of denial.

The sheep generally do not like the sheepdog. He looks a lot like the wolf. He has fangs and the capacity for violence. The difference, though, is that the sheepdog must not, can not and will not ever harm the sheep. Any sheep dog who intentionally harms the lowliest little lamb will be punished and removed. The world cannot work any other way, at least not in a representative democracy or a republic such as ours. Still, the sheepdog disturbs the sheep. He is a constant reminder that there are wolves in the land. They would prefer that he didn't tell them where to go, or give them traffic tickets, or stand at the ready in our airports, in camouflage fatigues, holding an M-16. The sheep would much rather have the sheepdog cash in his fangs, spray paint himself white, and go, Baa. Until the wolf shows up; then the entire flock tries desperately to hide behind one lonely sheepdog.

We do not call for gifts or freedoms beyond our lot. We just need a small pat on the head, a smile and a thank you to fill the emotional tank which is drained protecting the sheep. And when our number is called by The Almighty, and day retreats into night, a small prayer before the heavens just may be in order to say thanks for letting you continue to be a sheep. And be grateful for the thousands, millions of American sheepdogs who permit you the freedom to express even bad ideas.

There is more of this, but space will not permit more to be printed. Some food for thought.

There is no safety for honest men except by believing all possible evil of evil men.
Edmund Burke.

