

Simply Service

for those interested in service relationships

August 2008

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Please note:

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Past issues are posted on the group in the [files](#) section.

Message from BootPig

Hi all,

Welcome to another issue, my gratitude to chop for poking me with a stick regularly to get this done. She's done a great job with taking on the formatting, and wait 'til you see the new calendar. That's a handy idea!

Upcoming events for us include local and out-of-state events. On Monday, September 15th, Sir and I will teach Impact Play at APEX here in Phoenix, specifically focused on punching, kicking, and heavy impact toys. September 20th will be the Behind Closed Doors event in Tucson, Arizona. Sir is teaching an impact play class, and I'm doing the Long-term service class that has been well-received. Then it is off to Folsom Fringe! We're also the speakers at the Fringe Brunch, so that's a project in process at this point! Wheeeee!

We have some new contributors this month, as well as welcoming back some former contributors. Life continues on and I'm in a navel-gazing portion of my service cycle, which happens regularly for me. Lately I've been a little more focused on getting centered, and developing new skills. The newest adventure is adding straight razor shaving skills to my repertoire. I'm still in research/learning phase, and have some old razors from Sir that I'll be sending out for re-honing and then maintain them from that point. I'm excited since I already enjoy participating in his grooming rituals, so this just adds to it.

As per usual, let me include my per issue begging for additional contributions. Remember, it doesn't have to be a full length article. Even a few tips/tricks that you find contribute to your service, or pleasing to an Owner. Please get in touch with either one of us at wmb.bootpig@gmail.com or wmb.porkchop@gmail.com.

I look forward to continuing to hear from you, and meeting you at various events.



wmb.bootpig@gmail.com

To subscribe, send a blank email to:
SimplyService-subscribe@yahogroups.com

Unconventional Service

Dusk Peterson

*"If I have been of service,
if I have glimpsed more
of the nature and essence
of ultimate good,
if I am inspired
to reach wider horizons
of thought and action,
if I am at peace with myself,
it has been a successful day."*

Alex Noble

From porkchop's lap:

*On this issue's 'make it pretty'
front, I've added something new to
this issue: an event calendar!*

*Okay... it's not ground breaking
stuff; I just wanted to bring it to
your attention in case you'd like us
to post a service related event
announcement in future issues.*

*You are welcome to contact me at
the address below with information
blurbs, banners and/or press
releases.*

*Three months out is a good working
time for me, it keeps a page from
getting too cluttered and most
importantly: [Three is a Magic
Number](#). ☺*

~porkchop

wmb.porkchop@gmail.com

I took a deep breath and proceeded to make the most shameful confession I figured I'd ever make to my boy: "I don't really enjoy receiving service."

This statement turned out to be not at all true, but it took time for me to realize why.

I used to go to meetings about DS and M/s where everyone was talking excitedly about service. Deliver drinks to your master! Train your girl to fold your towels properly! Make sure that those dishes are well scrubbed!

I used to fall asleep during such discussions. It wasn't that I couldn't understand why such topics would be exciting for other folks. Indeed, one of my unfulfilled ambitions is to write a novel on the glories of Edwardian domestic service. It's just that I found it dead boring to fold towels, and I couldn't get up any great excitement at the idea of someone else doing that for me.

Not to mention that it's hard to figure out how to fit towel-folding into a long-distance relationship.

It took time - and quite a bit of education from my boy - to teach me that service need not mean domestic service. Here are some of the non-domestic ways we've integrated service into our relationship.

Professional service: This one was a given, from the start of our relationship. My apprentice (that's his official title) is my research assistant. When I need to know a particular fact while writing one of my novels, I'll ask him what he knows about the topic. Then I'll listen to him rattle off what he knows for the next hour. It's like having a living encyclopedia at my fingertips. When he *doesn't* know about a particular topic, that's when his access to a research library and the Web come in handy.

Protocol: "Sir, I don't see any difference between protocol and service," was my apprentice's puzzled response to my declaration that I wasn't terribly interested in receiving service from him. He put into words a thought that had already been half-forming in my mind.

After all those discussions of domestic service that I fell asleep during, I would inevitably perk up during discussions of protocol. I had attended ritualistic church services as a young adult - and by "ritualistic," I mean the type of church service where, when the bishop walks down the aisle, you go *down* on your knees. To me, high protocol wasn't just something practiced at leather venues or in long-ago historical times: it was something I had practiced in the vanilla world. I found protocol both natural and deeply meaningful.

But until my apprentice voiced his thoughts on this, it had never occurred to me that, when I knelt to the bishop, I was doing service to him. This gave me a whole new perspective on how much service my apprentice was already doing for me.

Unconventional Service

continued

Companionship: In Victorian times, a "companion" was a woman who was employed to be a social companion to another woman. If one looks at historical texts on service, one can see that, while companionship was not specifically listed as a job requirement in most service positions, in practice, servants have often played that role. Where would Lord Peter and Bertie Wooster have been without their Bunter and Jeeves to chat with?

As a disabled person who is homebound six months out of the year, I had a very strong need for companionship, in the form of daily phone calls and e-mail. That is a service which my apprentice has fulfilled admirably.

Being mentored: I don't suppose that the act of being mentored is on anyone's list of service roles. Even though my apprentice and I knew that mentoring would be central to our relationship, it took me time to realize how great a service my apprentice offers me when he allows himself to be mentored.

A typical conversation between us will go something like this:

"How do you feel you've been doing with your schedule recently?"

"Well, Sir, my housework has been going really well, and I'm improving on getting exercise done. In fact, today, when I took out the garbage, I thought to myself, 'I should take a walk after this.'"

"Marvelous! I'm glad to hear that you've found a way to remember to do that."

"Unfortunately, I haven't been spending as much time on art and writing as I'd like."

"Have you been writing at nine o'clock each evening, like we'd planned?"

"I *intend* to do so, but I forget."

"Can you set an alarm clock?"

(A long reply about the technical problems involved with this.)

"So it sounds as though you need something to trigger a reminder that it's time for you to do your daily writing session. . . . Wait a minute. When you took out the garbage this morning, it reminded you that you should take your daily walk, right?"

"Yes, Sir, because I'm scheduled to walk at the beginning of each day."

"Do you have set times for your meals?" (Somewhat startled by the apparent change in topic, my apprentice lists his meal-times.) "Okay, since you eat dinner at eight o'clock, could you

schedule your writing for immediately after dinner? Would that trigger a reminder to you to do your daily writing session?"

"Yes, Sir, I think that might work."

The service part of this is probably not at all obvious to anyone who doesn't have a strong teaching urge, as I do. For anyone who doesn't, let me translate this conversation into standard leather-speak:

"Boy, you are to take a walk at the start of every morning and write at nine o'clock each night and will report to me on whether you've been keeping to your schedule. . . . You haven't been remembering to keep to your writing schedule, I see. Set an alarm for nine p.m. daily. No, on second thought, you will do your writing immediately after dinner each day."

"Yes, Sir."

You see? The central role that orders and obedience play in most service-oriented relationships (and which play a small but significant role in ours) is replaced by the central role of guidance and learning. For me, the knowledge that my apprentice is listening to my questions and suggestions, and is learning from them, is as wonderful as . . .

Well, as wonderful as his ability to serve drinks. He's converted me to enjoying domestic service to that extent.

This text was originally published by
duskpeterson.com.

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Dusk Peterson, who was a nominee in the Mid-Atlantic Regional category of the Pantheon of Leather Awards 2006, is an author of leather fiction and nonfiction, as well as gay historical fantasy stories with DS elements. Dusk Peterson's writings are available in the following locations:

duskpeterson.com (contact information, historical fantasy, gay love stories, and gay leather fiction),

duskpeterson.com/leather.htm (leather nonfiction and Web directories: gay, lesbian, and pansexual),

and duskpeterson.insanejournal.com/tag/mentoring+life (DS-related blog entries).

Making Houseguests Comfortable and Welcome

Danae Casen

Growing up my Mom was the hostess with the mostest and she is still the same today. Everything my Mom does to make guests feel comfortable in her house just seems so effortless. She always has those extra special touches around just waiting for a guest. Whether it was finding out a guest's favorite soda, having just the right lotion, a basket of magazines or snacks ready. She even has a book on hand that you have dying to read. It was just all there waiting for you as her guest.

In addition to the small things, she's always prepared for out-of-town guests staying overnight or two. The guest room is prepared with the linen and an extra set of towels or two are always ready. Growing up we moved far away from family and friends. My Mom left the welcome mat at our door with that intent to truly make those that come into our home feel welcome whenever they found themselves nearby and wanted to stay a night or two. Looking back, I know this is probably where I get -it- from. Her desire to make people feel comfortable and ability to anticipate the nuances of someone staying with them is what makes her so good at being a good hostess and why she makes it look effortless.

I think after Master's first visit with my parents, he understood my skills for entertaining and having guests because I think it just in my genes. Although I do enjoy entertaining and having guests over, I don't feel I have been able to make it completely effortless as my Mom has been able to do. There is a lot of effort, time and thought that goes into entertaining guests. For me, it's not just about straightening up the house. Once you have the initial preparations under control, it becomes easier every time I entertain guests thereafter.

Being Master's property and entertaining guests, however – takes me to a much different mindset and place. It is my duty to him to be of service and as his property everything I do is direct reflection on him so making his house warm and welcoming for out of town guests is always upfront in my mind. It isn't that I wouldn't have tried to make it warm and welcoming if I weren't in service but I am just more aware of every detail because I am a reflection of him. So hopefully his guest's create special memories and positive experiences from their stay with us.

Although there are many topics of how to entertain guests I am going to focus on just two aspects of entertaining: the guest room and the guest bathroom. If your guests are going to stay over, you need to focus on creating that "home away from home" feeling for your guests.

THE GUEST ROOM

Creating Space in the Room

- **Livable Room:** We all know that guest rooms tend to be that room where everything gets dumped that we don't use that often: The exercise bike we haven't used for 2 years, an old coat rack that with mounds of coats and scarves burying it so you can't even see the stand itself, TV trays Uncle Ed and Aunt Emma gave you for Christmas, the extra dining room chairs that you don't want to clutter up the dining room and so on and so forth. It is now time to make that space a guest room. Try to get rid of the things that you don't need. Find other places for those things that aren't needed at the moment. Those TV trays into a hall closet. Exercise bike to a family room where it might get used. Try to clear the room out enough to make it comfortable and inviting for your guests.
- **Closet:** Your guest will undoubtedly need a little space to hang their clothes. So create space in your closet and provide some sturdy hangers. If you absolutely can't create a place in the closet, provide an over-the-door hook/hanger for the outside of the closet door.
- **Place for Suitcase/Personal items:** Have luggage rack, bench or small table to set a suitcase so that a person doesn't have to kneel on the ground to look through their suitcase. A nice touch is having a drawer or two available in the room also.

Bed and Bedding

- **Bed:** Have a comfortable bed. We all know how sleeping on a pull out sofa can create a bad night sleep and body aches so try not to put your house guest through that by getting a foam pad to help make it a more comfortable place to sleep. Or are you using an old mattress in the guest room that you stopped using because it was hurting your back? Well don't do that to your guests. You didn't want to sleep on it why do you want to make your guests sleep on it.
- **Sheets:** Make the bed with clean good sheets and pillowcases. Want to take it up one more notch? Iron the sheets and pillow cases so there is no crease marks on them. Also have an extra set of linens folded and accessible for your guest as accidents do happen. It saves them some of the embarrassment if they can just take care of it themselves and only have to give you the dirty sheets.

Making Houseguests Comfortable and Welcome

continued

Bed and Bedding (continued)

- Blankets & Pillows: Remember in the summer time a lighter blanket might be more suitable so try to have season-appropriate blankets/linens on the bed. Place an extra blanket folded at the end of the bed. And also have an extra pillow or two available (actually at least one extra for every guest).

The Comforts

- A bedside table with a clock. Set the clock to the current time and if it is a clock radio set it to a good station. So that your guest doesn't need to search through stations to find something.
- A pitcher or carafe of water with a glass (or two if there is more than one guest) Refill it each night and replace glasses with clean ones.
- Have a book, some magazines and a bedside light so your guests can read.
- A box of tissues and a wastebasket.
- Stationary, stamps, pens, scissors (for possibly cutting tags airport tags off), lotion and small sewing kit.
- Hang clean robe in the room to slip on to go to the bathroom in and if possible provide slippers too.
- Flowers and candles make the room extra special. (But also be aware that some guests may have allergies so these types of things might cause them some problems.)
- Provide a night light as getting around a dark unfamiliar room will cause less stubbed toes.

Extras

- Place snacks, fresh fruits or chocolates in the room. Create a little basket of some treats for them to snack on late at night so they don't have to navigate to the kitchen through a dark house.
- Place a television, DVD player and movies in case they want to get away and just have some alone time - you have provided them an escape. Also remember to put the remote on the bedside table.
- And CD player with an assortment of music to wind down from a long flight into town.
- A chair in the room- some people don't like to sit on a bed at all even to put their shoes or socks on so having that chair will make them more comfortable
- Provide tourist information - if your guest is going to do some local sightseeing, they can browse through brochures to see what looks good to them. Include any local coupons to amusement parks or other area attractions.

THE GUEST BATHROOM

The Basics

- Set out clean set of matching towels on the counter. Let guests know where extra towels are if needed.
- Stock with necessities - new bar of soap, fill liquid soap dispensers, fresh roll of toilet paper plus a back up roll easily attainable to your guest, fresh hand towel and bathmat
- A night light for your guest to get to the bathroom with ease in the middle of the night.
- Have a hair dryer and curling iron out for your guests to use.
- Bathroom cleaning supplies under the sink or in an easily visible area in case your guests desire to clean up after himself/herself.

A Basket of Extras

Think of all the things a guest might have forgotten in their packing. Or if they have been traveling a while also they might be running out of things and need fresh basics.

- Travel-size toiletries: Toothbrush (new in package), shampoo, conditioner, disposable razor, shaving cream, mouthwash
- Nail clippers, fingernail file and tweezers
- Q-tips & cotton balls
- Aspirin or ibuprofen
- Special Touches: Scented lotion or body wash, candles or bath salts and oils

You are now ready for overnight guests. Your guests aren't expecting to be staying at a luxurious hotel but having a comfortable warm inviting home will make their stay better than a night at a hotel. As a service oriented slave giving 5-star service with personal touches is a good reflection of Master so something I strive for when having overnight guests.

Danae lives in western Colorado and has been in a service oriented M/s relationship with Michael for the last 5 years. Before moving to Colorado, she lived in Ohio where she was active in several BDSM organizations through volunteering her time. In her free time, she creates art, enjoys day trips around beautiful Colorado and frequently gets lost in books. She has written for newsletters, contributed to websites and reflects on her own journey in the lifestyle in an online blog.

For more information about Danae, please visit www.withinreality.com

Not Trustworthy, Risk Worthy

@

What kind of a Master do I have? Well, I'll tell you.

He was thirty when we'd met and while he'd certainly not done without sex he hadn't settled down with any woman for more than a few months at a time. He fell in love with me the moment he saw me and pursued me relentlessly. I was in love with someone else and was rather difficult to capture. Within three months I was his. He was not only determined, he was irresistible. He was cocky and vulnerable. He was evil and sincere. We had our first Sm session within about three weeks of sleeping together and I was a goner. I was twenty-five. It was 1984. We had a formal wedding a year later and set sail on our lifetime together. But he'd never had a long-term stable live in relationship. I couldn't trust that he had staying power could I? There was no empirical evidence. I risked submitting to him and he came through. That's what kind of a Master he is.

He was a roamer and a rebel but he had gathered the skills he needed for right livelihood. He can build a house from the ground up, tear down a V twin Harley motor and rebuild it. He can draw and paint and had already had a one man show. He can dance and skate. He can ski on snow or water. He can play anything that involves a ball, cards, or dice, and win. He gambles successfully and brings home money from it. He gambles. He gambles at cards, dice and love. I can't trust that he'll win, but I risked submitting to him and he came through. That's what kind of a Master he is.

He caught all three of our babies as I birthed them on the kitchen floor so he has skills as a midwife. He had never had a child before but he dared to enforce his will. You know, if he had had other children I could probably trust him to desert the mother of his kids huh? I could not trust his skills as a midwife. I risked submitting to him and he came through. That's what kind of a Master he is.

He told me to stay home and nurse those babies. He had never nursed a baby but he dared to enforce his will. He told me to stay home and not abandon them to a day care. He'd never raised a child before but he dared to enforce his will. I couldn't trust he was right since all the other women with babies were dumping them off with strangers. I risked submitting to him and he came through. That's what kind of a Master he is.

He has gotten out of bed every day of his adult life and gone to work. Every Friday he has brought home his money, paid the bills, bought us cars and clothes and toys and tuitions. He has not abandoned his children nor has he allowed me to chase him away. He married me. We had children and he has stayed by the side of his children's mother for twenty-four years showing them that marriage vows are real. Our vows were for forever too, not just until death did us part. The only thing any of my children fear from us is telling us they are getting divorced from their chosen spouse. He'd never been married before. How could I trust he'd stay married, but of course if he had been married before I'd have the proof he couldn't be trusted to stay married. So I didn't trust him. I risked submitting to him and he came through. That's what kind of master he is.

When I lost my mind over him falling in love with another woman he fought it out with me and he held his ground. He was not going to be monogamous with me. He had no experience with poly or open marriages. He had no experience with totally insane wives. I couldn't trust him to handle this with any kind of aplomb or equanimity. I risked being with him and he came through. That's what kind of a Master he is.

When I couldn't manage to maintain the integrity of my character, my personality and my own desires for my own life and continue to submit at this level I begged him to let me go. We negotiated our parting for three months. He had never lived separate from his wife before. I couldn't trust that he'd be able to support me while I gathered my wits about me so I could continue to be with him. He had never had a wife who sought slave training before I couldn't trust that he'd rise to the task and learn to be a Leather Master but he came through. That's what kind of a Master he is.

The first time he bound me, did age play with me, did role play with me, flogged me, caned me, paddled me, whipped me with a single tail were the first times he ever did any of those activities. I couldn't trust that he'd do it right. I risked submitting to him and he came through. That's what kind of a Master he is.

I have a trust fund. It is my inheritance. When it comes due in five years I absolutely will give it to him to manage. He has never managed that amount of money before. I cannot trust him to do it well. I will risk submitting to him and he will come through... OR HE WON'T!

But I will take that risk. Because that's what kind of a slave I am.

@ is a 24/7 servant to Master Scott in Phoenix, Arizona. They have been together for twenty-four years and practicing Sm on and off for the duration, but only became interested in D/s thirteen years ago. Eight years ago they changed their orientation to Master/slave. They have done presentations on protocol in the Southwest and were members of SASM, GWNN, MAsT, and Apex.

@ is a retired slave but still in service to Master Scott in Phoenix, Arizona. They have been together for twenty-four years and practicing Sm on and off for the duration, but only became interested in D/s thirteen years ago. In 2000 they changed their orientation to Master/slave and in 2007 back to "whatever feels right". Their involvement in the Leather Community has been as subject to change as their orientation.

@ currently holds no status or power orientation in the Leather Community having retired from slavery in 2007. She still, however, is in service to her husband and sole Master of twenty-four years in Phoenix, Arizona. Compelled to write about her experiences as a slave, a submissive, a masochist and a renegade loudmouth, she hopes to be able to serve the larger community with recollections and rabble rousing for the rest of her days.

Media Release: Submissive Journey Weekend

"Each One Teach One"

Welcome to the 2nd Annual Submissive Journey Weekend...

We are proud to announce that registration for our next Submissive Journey Weekend opens September 1st, 2008.

We cordially invite those who identify as submissive, slave, girl, boy /boy, bottom, pup, etc. to a weekend of learning, growth and support. All genders, sexual orientations, relationship statuses and experience levels, are welcome.

The classes at SJW will focus on service skills training, personal growth and relationship-oriented classes all with the intent to inspire further learning and growth in the submissive.

Come stay with us for three days and two nights at a luxurious cabin nestled in the beautiful mountains of TN (near Gatlinburg, TN). We have people that attend from all over the country and even Canada. Your registration package will include lodging, meals, educational materials, event t-shirt, over 20 different classes and large group discussions, and much more.

In an attempt to offer personalized attention we are offering only 40 openings so please don't wait to register. We fill up fast!

Below we have answered some detailed questions about SJW2. Please [contact us](#) if you have any additional questions and we will be happy to address them.

What is SJW?

Submissive Journey Weekend

The Submissive Journey Weekend is a weekend dedicated to the education and support of those who identify as submissive, slave, girl, boy /boy, bottom, pup, etc. It is a weekend founded on the idea of "each one teach one".

This weekend will be produced and facilitated by a group of hand-picked submissives and slaves from around the country who are active and committed to educating others within our community.

Where is it going to be held?

SJW2 will be held in a luxurious cabin nestled in the beautiful mountains of Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Pictures of the cabin are located on our [website](#).

What is included in the package?

- Your attendance into the Submissive Journey Weekend 2 for Friday, May 1st – 3rd 2009
- A fabulous selection of hands-on workshops, over 20 to choose from
- Lodging for Friday and Saturday nights
- All meals
- Evening festivities
- A weekend get away at a luxurious cabin in the mountains of Tennessee
- Submissive Journey Weekend T-Shirt
- A resource book full of handouts for you to take with you on your journey.
- Gift bag
- A chance to grow and fellowship with other submissives!
- And much, much more!

How much does the package cost?

The cost of the package is \$235.00

What will the weekend be offering?

We will be offering approximately 20 classes and several group discussions.

Classes include a variety of skills training and submissive growth classes, ranging from formal service, bootblacking, erotic massage, protocol basics, communication techniques, loss and uncollaring, self-actualization and much more. A full [class list](#) is located on our website.

This weekend will also offer you the opportunity to share your experiences and skills with others, supporting the idea of each one teach one. All we ask is that those who attend come ready to learn and support others during their learning process.

What makes this weekend so different?

What makes SJW so different is that the weekend is developed to support the idea that there is a wealth of knowledge to be shared by those who are on a similar path in life. We are offering an intensive residential program where submissives are encouraged to work as a team to make the weekend a success. We offer support in the learning process by pairing each attendee with an appropriate staff member. We also offer after event follow up and encourage each attendee to continue to learn and grow long after the weekend ends.

How big is this event?

This event has limited space based on the venue and our desire for individual attention to each of our attendees. We limit the event to 40 attendees.

Where do I sign up?

When you get a chance, please visit our website and read the entire site carefully. The [registration information](#) can be found on our website.

For more detailed information please feel free to visit our website at <http://www.submissivejourneyweekend.com/>

A Thank you to our Sponsors: This would not be possible without the support and kindness of our sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring or making a donation to the Submissive Journey Weekend please check out our [sponsor information page](#) on our website.



Upcoming Events

NOTE: Orange calendar dates mean we'll be there!

APEX Monday Night Meeting September 15

Presenting *Impact Play* with Whipmaster Bob

Servant's Retreat II September 19-21

www.bdsmclasses.com

Hosted by Myrtle Beach Kink

Behind Closed Doors September 20

<http://members.cox.net/bajaarizonaleather/home.htm>

Presented by Baja Arizona Leather
Tucson, AZ

Presenting *The Joys of Service*

Folsom Fringe September 26-28

<http://www.folsomfringe.com/>

Presented by smOddysey
San Jose, CA

Presenting *Face Play-Where Vice Meets Vanity* with Whipmaster Bob
Whole Body SM with Whipmaster Bob
And *Singletails from Three Sides* with Whipmaster Bob & Daddy Darin

Servant's Retreat October 17 - 19

www.bdsmclasses.com

Ft. Walton Beach, FL

AUGUST 2008

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SEPTEMBER 2008

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OCTOBER 2008

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