

INFORMATION BULLETIN #1
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THE WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT¹

Jacira Jacinto da Silva

President of CEPA – International Spiritist Association

Dear fellow members,

First of all, I would like to most sincerely thank the members of the communication team, represented by Argentinians, Brazilians, Puerto Ricans, Venezuelans and Spaniards for the effort they have devoted to the implementation of a work that is aimed at spreading everything that goes on around CEPA.

My sincere thanks to all, in the persons of Neventon and Herivelto, who have launched our communication through this Newsletter. Much more will be presented soon, for there is a whole team working in several fronts.

We undertake an extremely important legacy of achievements and accomplishments, being in the field of disseminating ideas from CEPA by Institutions from Brazil and many other Countries from America and Europe, or being for the development of the thought through various mechanisms that provided us the study and the bibliographic production.

We move from this point forward with extreme satisfaction and joy, already beginning some works that in the same way we hope to be fruitful and enhance the growth of the Spiritist free thought.

In a recente trip we made to Spain, we could notice the great potential for development of the free spirit. We attended the *II International Congress of Spiritism*, carried out by AIPE - *Associação Internacional para o Progresso do Espiritismo* (International Association for the Progress of

¹ Translation to English: Maira Garcia Spinola

Spiritism) in Torrejón de Ardoz, community of Madrid. The welcome was kind, the intense participation and the possibilities of spreading our thoughts to Europe have shown themselves very promising.

It is our purpose to dedicate all the efforts to disseminate and improve the genuine thought of Kardec, incentivating the study, the debate and the research, in order to sharpen the spiritist knowledge, so valuable to the human kind in the current days.

CEPA NOW IS INTERNATIONAL

In its last Congress, held from the 25th to 28th of May, CEPA has altered its Statute, starting to have international scope with the denomination of *CEPA - International Spiritist Association*. The *XXII CEPA's Congress* took place in the city of Rosario, Argentina, marking the end of the second management of the Argentinian Dante López, and the election of the Judge of Law Jacira Jacinto da Silva, from São Paulo, SP, as president, for the period of time 2016-2020. For this reason, CEPA's headquarters will be located in Brazil during this quadrennium.

Jacira Jacinto da Silva is the author of the book "Criminality: Educate or Punish?", fruit of the experience lived at penitentiaries while she acted as an Inspector of Prison at the district of Birigui, SP.

Born and raised from a spiritist cradle, as a child Jacira participated in what at the time was called "Spiritist Catechism" (nowadays called "early Childhood Spiritist Education"). She also attended the "Youth Spiritist Education" and has directed other groups of study for the Young. She is married to the Professor Mauro Spinola. Jacira has been president of CEPAmigos (Association of the Delegates and Friends of CEPA in Brazil), nowadays called CEPABrasil, in the managements 2005-2007 and 2007-2009. She has always been present and active in the greatest Spiritist conclaves of secular and free-thinker segments, such as the "Forums of Spiritist Free-Thinking", National Gatherings of CEPABrasil, CEPA's Pan American Spiritist Congresses and the Ibero American Spiritist Gathering. She is a member of CPDoc (Center of Spiritist Research and Documentation) and attends the Center of Spiritist Studies José Herculano Pires, in São Paulo, SP.

In Birigui, she founded the APAC, initially denominated *Association of Prison Protection and Assistance* and then *Association of Community Promotion And Assistance*. That is because the work that had started in the interior of a prison got expanded, generated the construction of a Center for Resocialization of Prisoners, containing workshops, official

teaching schools and other cultural activities, had other departments out of prison, other cells, like the support to the former prisoners, the institute of social promotion and inclusion, that dedicated itself to the children, grandchildren and other family members of the prisoners and from the communities most affected by the drug traffic, a work of support to the Young in conflicts with the Law, support to the victims etc.

In Bragança Paulista she helped found the ECOA – Community Learning Space, dedicated to the care for children who live in extreme social vulnerability. During the six years that she lived there, she dedicated herself to supporting this Project, that remained after her exit, as it happened in Birigui.

In São Paulo, Jacira gathered a group of close people, mostly spiritists (but not only) to start some quality public politics, without any involvement with political parties. Among so many social needs, it's been chosen to work with the issue of chemical dependency, through the *Fundação Porta Aberta (Foundation Open Door)*, that is dedicated to the personal and professional qualification and inclusion in the Market of the person who has already been through rehabilitation treatment, being in a clinic, a therapeutic community, a psychiatric hospital, or CAPS-ad.

CEPA 70 years of History

With the weakening of the Spiritism in Europe and the disappearance of the main spiritist journals in the Spanish language, because formerly Spain normally provided magazines, books and doctrinary material to the Institutions and Communities of Spiritism in Latin America, a group of Argentinian spiritist leaders, worried about the organization of the Spiritist Movement in the American Continent, proposed in 1939, during the III Intern Congress of the Argentinian Spiritist Confederation, the creation of a representative institution of the spiritists from this Continent, initially named *Liga Espiritista Pan-americana* (Pan American Spiritist League).

The deliberation begins to materialize when, in 1940, the Argentinians Hugo Nale, Humberto Mariotti and Naum Kreiman started leading a project, with the approval of the board of directors from CEPAAgentina. The project predicted that the foundation of a new representative entity would be discussed and executed during the *I Pan American Spiritist Congress*, that would be held in 1943. That proposal suggested the adoption of the name *Federação Espírita das Américas* (American Spiritist Federation) and the abbreviation FEDA for the new institution.

However, due to problems caused by the course of conflicts from the II World War, the holding of the *I Pan American Spiritist Congress* was continually postponed. Only in 1946, after the end of the war, was possible to accomplish the so expected congress, during the days 5 to 13 of October, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, occasion which was attended by delegates from several latin american countries.

In that congress, finally, the dream of the American spiritists is fulfilled with the foundation of the first international spiritist entity in the Americas that, despite the previous proposals, received the name *Confederação Espírita Pan-Americana* (Pan American Spiritist Confederation), being adopted the abbreviation CEPA. The congress also reached the decision of adopting the vine-branch as CEPA's symbol, the same used by Kardec to identify the Spiritism. Still in that congress was elected the first president from CEPA, the Argentinian engineer José Salvador Fernández.

Adopting in its Statute a program of integration of the Latin American Spiritism, inside a minimum Project of common objectives, CEPA started its march towards the progress of spiritist ideas, through the holding of periodic congresses and conferences in several Countries of the Continent. Since its foundation, CEPA has promoted 22 congresses and 15 regional conferences.

In 2016, seventy years after its foundation, satisfying the insistent claims, specially from the spiritist communities in Europe, identified with a secular and free-thinker nature of the Spiritist Doctrine, CEPA has modified its Statutes, becoming CEPA – International Spiritist Association, being kept the original abbreviation.

JON AIZPÚRUA IN BRAZIL

In the last September, CEPA's former president, Jon Aizpúrua, attended as a lecturer in three spiritist events in Brazil.

On the 14th, Jon was at the Spiritist Center José Barroso, in São Paulo, SP, where he spoke about the theme "The Social Spiritist Thought".

Over 400 people watched, on the 15th, Jon Aizpúrua's conference, at the auditorium of the Santa Cecilia's University (UNISANTA), in Santos, SP, where he spoke about "Reincarnation and Spirituality".

On the 17th, Aizpúrua was in Salvador, where he attended the seminar "The Spiritist Thought of Carlos Bernardo Loureiro" promoted by TELMA – *Teatro Espírita Leopoldo Machado* (Spiritist Theater Leopoldo Machado) speaking about "Spiritism and Parapsychology: analogies and differences".

Jon Aizpúrua is a psychologist, writer, professor and member of the University Council of the Central University of Caracas, Venezuela. His contribution to the development of the spiritist knowledge qualifies him as one of the most important and influent spiritist thinkers of the current days.

II INTERNATIONAL SPIRITIST CONGRESS

With the central theme “A new world”, the II International Spiritist Congress took place between the 16th and 18th of September, 2016, on the premises of the Hotel Torre Hogar, located in the Spanish town of Torrejón de Ardoz, province of Madrid. The event was held by AIPE – *Associação Internacional para o Progresso do Espiritismo* (International Association for the Progress of Spiritism), institution affiliated to CEPA.

The Congress counted with the participation of about 60 people from various nationalities, among them, representatives from CEPA’s board of directors, such as the President Jacira Jacinto da Silva, the Managing Director Mauro de Mesquita Spinola and the Financial Director Jailson Lima de Mendonça.

The lecturers, in tune with the central theme, developed different approaches on how the principles of Spiritism may be applied in the construction of a more spiritualized, fair and humane society.

LAUNCH AND PROMOTION OF THE BOOK “CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES OF REINCARNATION”.

Released during the XXII CEPA’s Congress, in Rosario, Argentina, held in May, 2016, organized by Arthur Chioro dos Reis e Ricardo de Moraes Nunes, two important spiritist writers from the city of Santos, SP, the book *Contemporary Perspectives of Reincarnation* has got, since then, a series of promotional events in the past few months.

In Brazil, the first launch event was held at the Martins Fontes Bookstore, on Paulista Avenue, in São Paulo, on August 12th. The occasion that was attended by the President of CEPABrasil, Homero Ward Rosa, an audience consisting of spiritists, supporters and followers of different spiritualistic trends could interact with the organizers and deepen their knowledge on reincarnation through the eyes of Spiritism.

As part of the promotional events, on August 25th, Arthur Chioro granted an interview to the show host Amaury Jr, in his show on Rede TV, where the recent book launch was highlighted. On the interview, besides

reincarnation, Chioro addressed subjects related to mediumship, spirit's survival, life in the spiritual world, among others.

Another Chioro's interview, published on the September 13th's edition of the paper *A Tribuna*, considered the most important one on Baixada Santista, also highlighted the newest piece of work from CEPA and the secular and free-thinker perspective of reincarnation.

There was also a launch and night of autographs, on September 15th, simultaneously to the Conference event with Jon Aizpúrua, in the auditorium of the Santa Cecilia's University (UNISANTA), in Santos, SP.

The book, with 233 pages, presents a selective collection of works introduced during the *XXI Pan American Spiritist Congress*, held in the city of Santos, SP, Brazil, in September, 2012. The edition resulted in a partnership between CEPABrasil – Brazilian Association of Delegates and Friends of CEPA – International Spiritist Association and CPDoc – Center of Spiritist Research and Documentation.

The works have signatures of authors with different nationalities and point out the up to dateness of the spiritist theory of reincarnation, developed in the works from Allan Kardec, supported by indications and/or evidences that are verified in the field of Experimental Science.

The authors also clarify how contemporary works from philosophers, scientists, scholars, writers and thinkers have been offering factual and theoretical support to the development of this theory, turning it into a new philosophical and scientific paradigm, possible to merit appreciation, study, the deepening of research and practical application in all areas of the Human knowlegde and action.