

## **Editorial**

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With great satisfaction, we present to our readers the second edition of the CEPA Bulletin Newsletter, official publication of the CEPA - International Spiritist Association. Continuing the proposal to establish a more effective channel of communication with the members of the secular and free thinking movement, and other interested parties, in order to present and report on the activities carried out by its administration and by the individuals and institutions that compose it.

This edition brings a reflection on the challenges of a world in crisis, signed by Special Adviser to the CEPA Presidency, Arthur Chioro, in the column "A word from CEPA". We also launched the column "Memories of CEPA" which brings brief biographical information of José Salvador Fernández, an Argentine spiritist who contributed greatly to the formation of the free-thinking spiritist criteria and who was one of the first Presidents of CEPA. It also contains material on the Manifesto published by CEPABrasil in November on the political and social situation in Brazil.

At the end of the year, CEPA launched its new website, with content in Portuguese, Spanish and English, which offers the possibility to reach a considerable number of readers around the world, allowing the ideals and perspectives of Spiritism be disseminated with greater efficiency and breadth.

The New Year that begins is a great opportunity to validate the results of our strategies and outreach projects, counting mainly with the collaboration of our readers so that, through suggestions and criticisms, we can focus more and more on a continuous process of perfection.

We sincerely thank all the members of the Editorial Board who sent texts, expressing their opinions, support and criticisms which made possible the continuity of this newsletter. Likewise, we thank the volunteers who acted in the translation for the Spanish and English versions, helping in the international dissemination of CEPA-minded ideals.

By 2017, new challenges will come and the road continues. We wish all readers a Happy New Year!

## A Word from CEPA

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**Ademar Arthur Chioro dos Reis**

**Special Adviser to the CEPA Presidency – International Spiritist Association**



2016 will be marked as a year in which the world was devastated by crises - nationally and on a global scale - whose outcome is still rather bleak, posing a scenario of many doubts.

It is impossible not to consider the restlessness that invades the planet from the electoral victory of the theses defended by Donald Trump, at the head of the world's greatest economic and military power. What will happen to the Old Continent as a consequence of Brexit. The spread of the economic crisis on a global scale which indicates that the recovery will be very slow, widening inequality between nations and peoples. The discourse of the recovery of economic growth has been used to impose setbacks in the environmental agenda. The concentration of wealth in the hands of a few was exacerbated, and the richest closed the year with more than \$237 billion dollars in hand. Large-scale extermination practices carried out by warring countries and religious extremists have turned the planet into a more violent and insecure place, to the point of questioning where and when the next terrorist action will be, and whether or not it will happen. How will countries that are experiencing deep political and economic crises, such as Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela, react? What will Cuba be like after Fidel Castro's death? How Colombia was able to reject a peace agreement sewn for years thread by thread? It is necessary to recognize the complexity of the world and the challenges presented.

In this context, the Spiritist philosophy offers an enormous contribution. From its postulates, it allows to conceive a new (moral) man, resultant, and at the same time the builder, of a new humanity.

For Spiritism, the harmony that governs the material universe and the moral universe is based on natural laws, recorded in our consciences. It is contained in the maxim of love, justice and charity taught by Jesus. Spirits, created simple and ignorant, are overcoming differentiated degrees of intellectual and moral progress. In society, the same process of development has repercussions and is conditioned to the progress made by the individualities that compose it.

According to Kardec, the cause for pride lies in the belief that man has of his own individual superiority. The spiritist vision, based on the principles of charity, equality and fraternity, discovers new horizons.

Spiritism is, par excellence, an agent of human solidarity. By showing that the present life is related to the acts practiced in previous existences, in addition to that

each person is author of its own happiness, it makes possible an important contribution to the moral elevation of society.

In the Spiritist vision, the union of intelligence and morality can produce forms of organizations and systems - political, economic and social - more in line with legitimate human needs.

Spiritism, devoid of hierarchical structures of power and as a liberating and progressive movement of ideas, as it is defended by CEPA, allows from its philosophical principles to analyze broadly, however profoundly, man and society.

It is time to reaffirm a global agenda that can respond to the phenomena of poverty, and economic, social and cultural exclusion, which still affect billions of people and we need to ensure sustainable development. And to radicalize democracy, uniting demands of political freedom with the imperatives of equality and social justice.

It is necessary to rescue the idea of a social organization in which the free development of each is the condition for the full development of all. A society where freedom is not an expression of individualism or corporatism, but of pluralism and appreciation of democracy. A society where equality is understood as the persistent and creative search for compensations that allow unequal men and women to have access to equal conditions of life, overcoming the extremes of inequality. Where fraternity is an expression of non-violence, of peace. It is necessary to overcome developmental materialism and consumerism that become a threat to life on Earth.

The process of globalization that we live is aggressive and exclusive and is expressed in the storms provoked by the movement of speculative and adventurous capitals around the world. It is necessary to neutralize it. But above all, it is necessary to question with the same intensity the self-centered, destructive consumerism, oriented by materialism, by propaganda and by the way of life where it is important to have, no matter what.

By 2017 we are urged to renew our energies and hope that we can advance, on a global scale, in the production of a better, more just, fraternal and united world.

That is the message from CEPA, who wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

# Report of CEPA: José Salvador Fernández

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José Salvador Fernández was an important Argentinian spiritist thinker and researcher of Parapsychology, born in Buenos Aires on February 17, 1893. In his youth, he graduated as a civil engineer at the University of Buenos Aires. He acted as a distinguished professor of physics in several schools in the Argentine capital, having published at the age of 30 his first book,

*Problems of Physics.*

His interest in paranormal phenomena and in Spiritism began in 1921, when he personally investigated the case of a certain psychic, famous for diagnosing and because of his healing mediumship. After that, he became a member of the *Constancia Spiritist Association*, where he observed, carefully, the mediumistic sessions held at that institution.

In 1933, he conducted research on his own wife, Maria Amanda Ravagnan, who at this time manifested mediumistic skills. Together with other collaborators, he founded the Atman Spiritualist Circle this same year.

From the outset, Fernandez's research was carried out per the metapsychic paradigm, which was characterized by qualitative methodology, and later, by becoming a pen pal with J. B. Rhine, adopted the parapsychological paradigm, with the use of quantitative methodology. Fernández was the main responsible for the dissemination among the Latin American countries of the mathematical methodology in the investigation of ESP phenomena, through his published articles or the Spanish translation of Rhine's articles.

As a parapsychologist, Fernández acted as president of the Argentine Society of Parapsychology (1948-1953), the Argentinean Institute of Parapsychology (1953-1955) and the Argentine College of Psychic Studies (1957-1967).

José Salvador Fernández had a great performance in the Latin American Spiritist movement. In addition to being an active member in his Spiritist society, he was a lecturer, columnist and assistant editor of the Spiritist magazine *Constancia*. At the First Pan-American Spiritist Congress in 1946, he participated as a representative of the Argentine Spiritist Confederation and the Constancia Society, being chosen as the first president of the newly founded Pan-American Spiritist Confederation (CEPA). He also had a good relationship with Brazilian Spiritists, participating as honorary professor of the Institute of Spiritist Culture of Brazil (ICEB).

He was a friend, colleague, and research associate of Luiz di Cristóforo Postiglioni (1909-1979) with whom he shared the authorship of the book *Scientific-Philosophical Foundations of Reincarnation*.

José Fernández disincarnated on May 16, 1967, as a victim of a stroke. His greatest contribution to Spiritism was beyond the creation of a Spiritist theory of psychic phenomena, the demonstration of the importance of scientific experimentation in doctrinal development, with the application of new methods developed by Parapsychology in the investigation of mediumnistic phenomena.

## **CEPABrasil publishes Manifest**

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The Brazilian Association of Delegates and Friends of CEPA (CEPABrasil) published a manifesto in November 2016, to present its position on various political and social issues in contemporary Brazil.

The Manifesto was proposed by Ricardo Nunes, of Guarujá, SP, and later approved by most of the associates, being signed by the president of the institution, Homero Ward Rosa, Pelotas RS.

Containing 18 topics, the document supports the defense of topics such as democracy, respect for human rights, prioritizing health, qualified education, assistance to the most deprived, protection of the environment, fight against corruption, social and tax justice, incentive free enterprise, reduction of bureaucracy, and encouragement for the creation and maintenance of jobs.

The document can be visited on the official website of CEPABrasil, in this link:

<http://www.cepabrasil.org.br/portal/artigo/675-manifesto>