

Editorial

The Spiritist philosophical field brings in its scope the concept of The Law of Society as one of the necessary parameters for the spiritual evolution of individuals. In this concept the spirits progress, among other factors, by perfecting its relationship with himself and with his fellow men. Such an advance goes through the cultivation of solidarity, a necessary condition to establish the "social union" that, according to Kardec, in The Book of Spirits is how "they (men) complete each other to ensure Their own well-being and progress. "

This is the subject addressed in "The Column of CEPA", signed in this edition by Dante López. In his brief article, the author emphasizes the meaning of the word solidarity as the capacity of identification with the problems of our peers, beyond evidencing the role of spiritists in the effectiveness of this practice in their daily life within society.

In this edition, the column "Memory of CEPA" presents a biographical account of Guillermina Massanet de Fermaintt, a Puerto Rican champion who was the first woman to preside over CEPA, whose administration was marked by a conciliatory tone among the currents that defended different conceptions about the nature of Spiritism.

It also contains the latest news on the programming of the VIII Spiritist Free Thinking Forum, which will be held from May 26 to 28, in the Brazilian city of Salvador, and whose activities determined the last edition of the Spiritist Free Thinking Forum of the Baixada Santista.

A Word from CEPA

THE SOLIDARITY THAT IS NEEDED

Dante López

Former President of CEPA (2008/2016)



Much is said about Solidarity these days, when we have unrestricted access to information and that allows us to be aware almost instantaneously to the news that happen anywhere in the world.

But it is so much the bombardment of information that it generates in us a kind of anxiety, for not knowing how to act or the anguish of knowing that we can do little with so many adverse situations.

A rape, a murder when theft, an accident in which a child dies or even an entire family. A country that is plunged into chaos by the authoritarianism of one group, another that threatens to break into attacking another with nuclear missiles, thousands of migrants who are drifting, if they do not die massively in a shipwreck ... and a long etcetera.

How can we be supportive in such a scenario? What does it mean to be supportive?

The word solidarity comes from the Latin "solidus" which means solid, whole. It derived in "soliditas" which refers to a homogeneous reality, whole and united where the components of that whole were of the "same nature".

Its etymological root refers to an in-solidum behavior, that is, that links the destinies of two or more people. Therefore, being a supportive person is not limited to offering help, but involves a commitment to the one that is intended to be helped.

To be in solidarity then, it is necessary to commit ourselves to the cause to which we are going to dedicate ourselves.

We could then think of various levels of solidarity, but let us look at least two of those: that which we have at our disposal with action, and that which we can only engage with thought and feeling.

The mere fact of having a receptive attitude to the needs that entangle us is already a step in the right direction. The intention to give creates a positive energy and brings people closer.

Being on the defensive, so that pain "does not affect me" closes us to the necessary contact and action.

Surely we have within our reach many opportunities to be in solidarity with family or friends, or some person or institution that we know and where we can act and see the results of our actions.

We can also collaborate with NGOs such as Doctors Without Borders, or UNICEF, which help to alleviate the terrible situations that children and families are experiencing in Africa and elsewhere. A donation with our credit card can make a big difference and we will be collaborating effectively to reduce the suffering of someone of the "same nature".

We can feel one with our Venezuelan brothers, who are suffering the worst crisis in their history and with our thought and feeling ask for them to resolve the situation. And we can sympathize with those who are our friends and call them offering affective and / or economic support.

The tremendous corruption crises that are happening in Latin America invite us not to remain silent and act "in solidarity", raising our voice so that everyone becomes aware that if we remain indifferent nothing will change, and we will continue to suffer that tremendous scourge of the immorality of the politicians who take advantage of inaction to continue their delinquency.

As Spiritists we know that each of our acts has an impact on the universal concert, so every little act we do will have its influence to improve the situation of someone who suffers.

The invitation of this small article is to promote participatory action in the face of the problems that are happening on our planet. Each of us can make a difference with his thought, with his feeling, but above all with his participation.

We can be happy enjoying our families, and grateful when we are far from adverse situations, but we will feel at peace when we feel solidly united to those who suffer, not to suffer with them, but while making an effective contribution so that they receive our empathy.

"Solidarity is a gesture that returns", we need to be on alert, there is a lot of need.

CEPA's Memory: Guillermina Massanet de Fermaintt



Guillermina Massanet Rivera-Fermaintt was without a doubt, in the last century, the most important name of Spiritism, in Puerto Rico; which has highlighted its dedication to the understanding of Spiritism with characteristics more faithful to the work of Allan Kardec.

Born in 1894, in the village of Arroyo, Guillermina, still young, moved to live in the capital city of San Juan, in order to complete her studies. Graduated in Teaching at the *University of Puerto Rico*, she dedicated to the career of professor for many years. Among Puerto Rican society, she was also known for its participation in social and cultural actions. As for her personal life, she married Benigno Fermaintt, from whose marriage three children were born.

Her important contributions in the Puerto Rican spiritist movement led her to occupy, in 1946, during the administration of Luis Sánchez, the position of vice president of the *Federation of Spiritists of Puerto Rico* (FEPR).

In the same year, Sánchez and Guillermina were present at the *1st Pan-American Spiritist Congress*, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina; which is the year when the CEPA (Pan-American Spiritist Confederation) was founded, making the adhesion of the FEPR's to the new international organization an official one. After a brief period, after the resignation of Sánchez, Guillermina assumed the presidency of the FEPR, whose position she occupied until 1970.

In 1957, she became the first woman to be elected president of CEPA, assuming the mandate until 1960.

In assuming this presidency, Guillermina found an institution divided between those who agreed and those who were against the definition of an eminently scientific and non-religious Spiritism, a position adopted by CEPA in previous years. Seeking a unity and a conciliatory tone, her administration

was marked by the elaboration of a new statute that diminished the differences.

Later, in 1969, Guillermina acted as president of the *VIII Pan-American Spiritist Congress*, held in the Puerto Rican capital of San Juan.

In 1977 Guillermina, accompanied by other women, toured the entire territory of Puerto Rico, visiting various spiritist societies, seeking support and contribution for the founding of the *Asociación de Mujeres Espiritistas Puertorriqueñas en Acción (AMEPA)*. Her task was a success and on March 17, 1977, AMEPA was founded, being elected its first president.

Her return to the spiritual homeland took place in 1984, when she was 90 years old.

For her contribution to the development of a lay and freethinking Spiritism, Guillermina was always remembered on several important occasions in the history of CEPA. In 2008, for example, the Organizing Committee of the *XX Pan-American Spiritist Congress*, held in Puerto Rico, decided to dedicate the event to her memory. The current president of CEPA (now the International Spiritist Association), Jacira Jacinto da Silva, also emphasized recalling her significant role, in an article published in the "Spiritist America" newspaper, in its June 2016 edition.

The importance of the dissemination of Spiritism, in its true nature, protected by the Kardecist codification, free of syncretism and mystification, as a necessary factor for its survival, was the great contribution of Guillermina Massanet de Fermaintt to the Puerto Rican and Latin American spiritist movement.

TELMA and CEPABrasil announce the programming of the VIII Free Thinking Spiritist Forum

The Spiritist Theater Leopoldo Machado (TELMA) and the Brazilian Association of Delegates and Friends of CEPA (CEPABrasil) released, at the beginning of April, more details on the programming of the VIII Free Thinking Spiritist Forum, to be held in the Brazilian city of Salvador, from May 26 to 28, at the headquarters of TELMA.

For three days, the forum will present a varied program with artistic presentations, conferences, panels, and round tables.

The event will feature speakers from various locations in Brazil including various CEPA delegates as well as members of other spiritist institutions such as the author Paulo Henrique de Figueiredo and the president of the Spiritist Federation of the State of Bahia, André Luiz Peixinho.

On the 26th, at night, the opening conference will be given by the former president of CEPA, Milton Rubens Medran Moreira, who will address the theme: "Spiritism's lay, humanist and free-thinking dimension."

For more information on the Forum's programming, access this file available on the TELMA website:

http://www.telma.org.br/uploads/2/1/8/7/21874604/programa%C3%A7%C3%A3o_do_viii_f%C3%B3rum_do_livre-pensar_esp%C3%ADrita.pdf

XII Free-Thinking Spiritist Forum of the Baixada Santista

With the central theme: "The Contribution of Spiritism for a World in Crisis", the XII Free-thinking Spiritist Forum of the Bajada Santista was held in the Brazilian city



Jailson Mendonça, Paulo Henrique de Figueiredo and Arthur Chioro at the Centro Beneficente Ângelo Prado, in Santos, Brazil.

of Santos, between April 18 and 21. This Forum is

promoted and organized by the spiritist societies of the Bajada Santista, coastal region of the state of São Paulo, which are linked to CEPA. It is forum held annually, in the month of April.

The program of the event was composed by a series of conferences held in three Spiritist centers in the city of Santos. The first of these took place on the 18th, at the Allan Kardec Spiritist Center, where Mauro de Mesquita Spínola addressed the theme: "A New Vision of Man and the World."

On the 19th, at the Spiritist Center Angelo Prado, the conference was: "Spiritist Revolution - The Forgotten Theory of Allan Kardec", offered by Paulo Henrique de Figueiredo. The last conference, held on the 20th, was given by Arthur Chioro, from the Spiritist Group Work and Love, with the theme: "Contemporary Perspectives of Reincarnation".

Also, as part of the schedule during the event, a walk was held on the morning of Saturday 21, which toured the avenue of the coast of Gonzaga Beach and ended at the Plaza Allan Kardec, which gathered dozens of participants and called for the building of a culture of peace in society.

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