



The Spirit of Cassadaga

Volume 1
Issue 1
September, 2007

Editorial Page

Dear Member,

It has been a while since we have had a newsletter. Hopefully, we will have one regularly from now on.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep the membership reasonably current on affairs within the Association (Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp), inform the membership of world events concerning the movement of Spiritualism and to provide a method for feedback on all of the aforementioned.

One easy way to give feedback is through our website at **www.cassadaga.org** Our email for feedback to this newsletter is: **spirit@cassadaga.org**. These responses will be forwarded to me and from time to time will appear in future issues. Your involvement and input is appreciated and needed with all the events unfolding around and within the Association.

I will not publish anonymous communications. I may take into account their content, but I will not refer to them. I will be unable to return any material sent to the newsletter, either. I feel that, ethically, one should stand by one's own opinions. Our religion also teaches us to be responsible for our actions. You may use the email address listed above or mail your responses via US Mail to: Newsletter Editor, P. O. Box 319, Cassadaga, FL 32706.

In the near future, there will be a newsletter more current on the website for more recent issues and input from you, the members. This is YOUR association. Get involved and give us your input and expertise to help produce what you want in YOUR organization and church. If you have any suggestions or articles of interest for the newsletter, please send them on, also. I'll be waiting to hear from you.

Sincerely,
Rev. Stephen G. Adkins, Editor



Trustees' Corner

I am honored to be asked to write a note for the new and long-awaited newsletter. I remember when Rev. Jim Watson wrote *The Spirit of Cassadaga* many years ago. It was always uplifting and worth talking about.

Coming to Cassadaga has been a fun, interesting and wonderful journey. I am always thrilled to meet a new visitor, even a new visitor in Spirit. I'm also constantly amazed at how I am shown the love that breaks through the clouds that float in and out of the camp. I've been fortunate to meet some new as well as some returning members and find that they are the beacons that have helped lead the camp out of the cloudy days just past.

I have learned a lot from those living and those passed and I hope everyone reading this will pause for a moment and think of the lessons they have learned the path that brought them here to this day, this place and this life. As we say in the seventh of our Declaration of Principles: *We affirm the moral responsibility of the individual and that he makes his own happiness or unhappiness as he obeys or disobeys Nature's physical and spiritual laws.* It's your thoughts that are manifesting that happiness or unhappiness. Let's think good thoughts.

Blessings,
Esther Seymour-Vogenitz
Vice-President, SCSCMA



Local Affairs

One of the most significant local affairs of this summer has been the opening of the Colby Café. Both camp members and visitors alike can now enjoy a wonderfully prepared, home cooked, special meal for lunch in pleasant and comfortable surroundings, and all for a reasonable donation. Also on the menu are sandwiches, soups, salads, snacks and gourmet desserts! Conveniently located in the Andrew Jackson Davis Building, the Colby Café is a great place to mingle, socialize and enjoy a delicious meal, too.

Congratulations are in order to John Reilley, the newest member of the Board of Trustees. As chair of the Finance Committee, John has worked tirelessly, volunteering his time and expertise to continuously improve the financial position of the camp. We are grateful for his continued service and look forward to his contribution as our newest Trustee.

Plans are currently underway to upgrade the bathroom facilities in the Andrew Jackson Davis Building. Further improvements are being made to the kitchen facilities, too. Plans to renovate Colby Memorial Temple and improve the exterior condition of Harmony Hall are also in progress. The camp welcomes both your interest and your participation in these and other plans to improve our properties as they continue to unfold.

Recent months have also been quite busy ones for the camp's many students of mediumship and healing. A wider variety of workshops and development courses have been offered this past year than during any other time in recent history. Please visit the Welcome center often to keep up to date with the many postings on our bulletin boards.

The number of tours and tour groups visiting the camp has also increased in recent months. We are now able to offer tours and related activities entirely in Spanish, significantly expanding the services we can offer to the many people drawn here from Hispanic communities. Special thanks go to both of our tour guides, Margarita Varela and Rev. Ben Cox, for their hard work and dedication.

Another event worth mentioning was the recent test filming by the Discovery Channel. The

results were quite encouraging and we eagerly await their return to film the full length documentary. Cassadaga is a wonderful place but in order to attract more visitors, we need to make more people aware of the fact that we are here and of what we have to offer.

As a final note, Cassadaga runs on volunteers. Halloween is right around the corner and the Christmas season is quickly approaching. As we continue to expand and move forward, we invite everyone to become more involved by volunteering their time and encourage all to help make Cassadaga a better place.

Contributed by William Deep



International Affairs

The Future of Spiritualism Depends on the Service It Can Render

By Dr. John Hettinger

This article first appeared in Psychic News, May 28, 1955. Let us know what you think.

Potentially greater than the proof of survival which Spiritualism can supply is the useful application of such knowledge.

If Spiritualists, by the quality of their work could invoke the cooperation of scientists, important new discoveries might be made.

Telepathy, now generally accepted by reason of personal experience, is an acceptable process by which the living and the dead may communicate.

These were some of the main points put forth by Dr. John Hettinger, well-know psychical researcher, when he spoke at the Conway Hall, London during the afternoon session of the May convention organizes by the London District Council of the Spiritualists' National Union. His subject was "spiritualism and the Spiritualist Movement," which we report below:

"... We are part of a mysterious universe, and our mind, the instrument by which we endeavor to fathom it, is itself a great mystery; hence, how can we be positive about anything?"

Our search for truth leads to strong convictions, with which we have to be satisfied, admitting a small percentage in which, after all, we may be wrong.

Death, the end of earthly life, is a mystery. Some believe that death is total extinction; others are convinced that it is not the end of our existence in the world, and Spiritualists belong to this group.

Spiritualism stands for a belief in the survival if human personality after bodily death and communication between survived personalities and incarnate ones.

Spiritualism stands in the same relation to the Spiritualist movement as pure science (namely, its facts) stands with respect to applied science (namely, useful purpose). A few examples are given about basic facts of science and their application for useful purposes.

The prestige attained by science is not due so much to its pure side as to the services rendered by its useful application. Likewise the prestige which Spiritualism may one day secure for itself depends not on the alleged facts, accepted or not, but on the useful purposes it can actually fulfill.

Before considering the facts on which Spiritualism bases its belief, let us see what kind of useful purposes it can fulfill.

First and foremost, in my opinion, is the alleviation of grief experienced by those who have lost by death people very dear to them, by convincing them of their continued existence, hence of co-existence and eventual reunion.

As people approach old age, and their powers begin to wane, occasions arise when they ponder

on the end of their earthly existence and experience a sad feeling creeping into the remainder of their life. To convince these people that physical death is not the end is another important purpose.

Conviction of an after-life, not of our physical but of our entire mental makeup, that is, of our personality, implies that we ought to be just as much concerned with the enrichment of our survived personality as we are with security in old age, if not more. To make people realize this implication is a further important purpose.

By refraining from exaggeration, paying more attention to discrimination and by sparing no efforts to improve the status of mediumship, the interest of scientists whose sciences are involved in what Spiritualism stands for, might be aroused and their endeavors, with the assistance of mediums, may lead to the discovery of some important missing link; a link which at present frustrates the Spiritualist movement in making progress. That this would be a purpose of paramount importance cannot be denied.

And, should science succeed in proving what Spiritualists have been maintaining for over a century, human relationships are bound to take a better turn for the benefit of all mankind, and the Spiritualist movement would have been the pioneer that brought this about.

More of this article can be acquired for the asking from the editor. As you can see, much thought has been given to date about our movement and what it entails.



Become active and make a difference.

Until next time fellow Spiritualists. A closing thought for the day:

Its easy to make a mountain out of a mole hill:
Just add dirt!!!



Contributors

Rev. Stephen Adkins
Esther Seymour-Vogenitz
William Deep
Betsy Shanahan
Meri Eitzen
Jennifer Newsome
Margarita Varela
Patricia Fordham

