



BUSS

British Union
of Spiritist Societies

www.buss.org.uk

www.facebook.com/uk.buss

buss.office@gmail.com

Newsletter 55

July - September 2016

Editorial

Where are going wrong? By Maria Paula Gonçalves - Blossom Spiritist Society UK

We have never had so many medical resources yet be so ill. We have never had such ease to communicate and so many people on the planet, yet still be victims of solitude. We have never had so much information freely accessible, yet find it so difficult to make decisions, creating anguish and anxiety. Where are we going wrong? We go in a hurry, stressed and always without time, but to arrive where? And to do what? Life expectancy has increased, but do we live well in this extra time we have conquered through intellectual progress?

Clearly we live in a paradox. We are physically very close, with numerous scientific and technological resources, with many theories of morality, but in need of humanity.

There is a classic phrase which is accepted and stated in various religions, which says "We are all brothers." For some, this concept is banal and disreputable, for others it is a truth accepted without much reflection because they lack the experience of the concept. Few truly comprehend the phrase in its entirety and make the effort to practice it.

The word "fraternity", from the Latin *frater* (brother), signifies 'kinship between brothers' and is associated with the philosophical concept of equality and freedom. In other words, it demonstrates that we all have the same rights within the social organisation and expresses the dignity of the individuals. From this, it is easy to understand that we have been, as a society, lacking in fraternity and that this idea, although being old, still has not been fully comprehended.

We still face vanity, egoism and pride within these same religious groups, which hinders or complicates the accomplishment of the good work by those who treat each other like siblings, or at least consider them that way. There are also those who preoccupy themselves with the spotlight on their own self-promotion rather than the action of collective good work. How many times do we lose focus from our work and its objectives due to mundane, useless or personal reasons?

Blessed are those who have said to their fellow men: "Let us work together and unite our efforts so that when the Lord arrives He will find His work finished." Then the Lord will say to them: "Come unto me, you who have been good servants, you who knew how to silence your rivalries and discords so that no harm should come to the work!" - The Spirit Of Truth, The Gospel According to Spiritism, Chapter XX, Item 5.

Where are we going wrong? Certainly in the lack of practicing fraternity! Fraternity leads us to self-knowledge, self-love, and the awakening of our sensitivity and our humanity. If we follow this, we will always be healthy, united and happy.

6TH

BRITISH CONGRESS ON
MEDICINE & SPIRITUALITY



Rudolf Steiner House
35 Park Rd, London
NW1 6XT



Baker Street

www.medspiritcongress.org
bussevents@gmail.com



AME Internacional



BUSS
British Union
of Spiritist Societies

11th and 12th
NOVEMBER
2017

Cosme Massi in London

In September, the renowned lecturer and researcher Cosme Massi visited various Spiritist groups around London and talked in-depth about aspects of life, Jesus, free will and happiness.

The groups he visited were enthralled by his talks and all found them to be wonderfully enlightening.

On 8th September, he visited Solidarity Spiritist Society (right) to talk about *Jesus from the Spiritist Perspective*. On 9th September he talked about *Happiness from the Spiritist Perspective* at Francis of Assisi Spiritist Society. He presented two lectures on 11th September: *Penal Code of the Future Life* at Sir William Crookes Spiritist Society, followed by *Freedom and Free Will* at Fraternity Spiritist Society (below).



On 10th September, during the *2nd Gathering of the Spiritist Family*, he presented a lecture with the theme "Is Happiness on Earth Possible?"

During his visit in London, he also took the opportunity to talk about the Kardecpedia website. (See the next page for more information.)

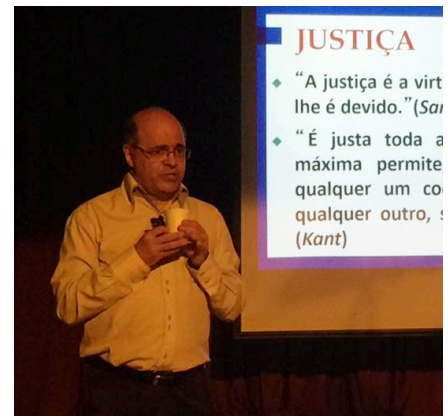
BUSS would like to thank all those who graciously hosted Professor Massi during his time in the UK and thank him for his wonderful talks and dedication to works of Allan Kardec and the Spiritist Movement.

2nd Gathering of the Spiritist Family

The "2nd Gathering of the Spiritist Family in the UK" took place on 10th September in London and joined around 45 families from different Spiritist Centres in the UK. This was a great opportunity for children, youth and adults to work on the theme "Where is Happiness?"

The event started with a presentation by the Children and Youth of Fraternity Spiritist Society with the participation of the recently created Charlie Chaplin Spiritist Theatre Group, from BUSS.

Professor Cosme Massi, from Brazil, gave a very instructive lecture to the adults, inviting us to think about the laws of justice and how they are a pathway to experience love and happiness.



The event was organised by the Spiritist Education Department of BUSS in collaboration with the European Commission for Education of ISC, which was represented by Claudia Werdine.

We would like to thank all the families, educators and volunteers that made the realisation of this event possible.

Maria Paula Gonçalves - uk.spiritist.education@gmail.com

Charlie Chaplin Spiritist Theatre Group *By Cristiane Parmiter*

We can express our best feelings and thoughts in many ways and, as many of us have chosen to be part of the Spiritist family in the UK, why not express meaningful ideas using Art? That is the main objective of the newly created Charlie Chaplin Spiritist Theatre Group. This group was created in August 2016 as part of BUSS to, hopefully, touch hearts in a way that can be understood by all: through Art. Let us remember that words are not essential, and there are definitely no language barriers or, for that matter, barriers of any kind that love cannot overcome, since it is a universal language in itself, and Art can express love!

Charlie Chaplin was chosen as the name for our Theatre group. This British actor was able to touch hearts using comedy as a powerful tool to express meaningful ideas without saying a single word at times! We thought that it would be a good idea to follow his steps somehow and count on his examples and inspiration to make a positive contribution to the Spiritist movement in the UK.

The 2nd Gathering of the Spiritist Family in the UK, which took place on 10th September 2016, was a wonderful event for families that had a small, but cute, collaboration from the Charlie Chaplin Spiritist Theatre Group to make its existence known and to possibly recruit other fellow Spiritist friends to participate in future events. The main theme for this event was 'Where is Happiness?' and we introduced Chaplin's work to people who possibly had no knowledge of it by having a dialogue about happiness from a Spiritist viewpoint between The Tramp, Chaplin's character who is also known as "Carlitos" in Brazil, and some young friends he made during the play, and also by showing a humorous short video of one of Chaplin's movies called 'The Kid'.



If you are reading this and would like to volunteer and be part of this initiative, helping us in the background, taking part in the plays as actors, or in any other way possible, please feel free to join us in our efforts to spread Spiritism through the medium of art!

Thank you to everyone who allowed the Charlie Chaplin Spiritist Theatre Group to present a small example of its work, and to those who contributed for the play to be a reality and a pleasant memory.

For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Charlie-Chaplin-Spiritist-Theatre-UK-1754970318086390>

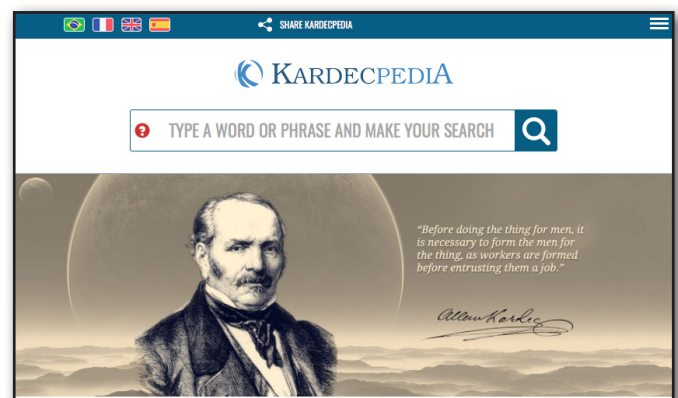
Kardecpedia

During his time in London, Cosme Massi introduced his new online initiative Kardecpedia.

The site offers users the ability to access Kardec's works as well as other related study material and is available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Kardecpedia website:

<http://www.kardecpedia.com>



BUSS Annual General Meeting

The BUSS Annual General Meeting took place on 17th September at Oxford House, Bethnal Green, London, and was attended by many groups and representatives of Spiritism in the UK.

Elsa Rossi conducted the meeting, where everyone had the opportunity to give an update on the activities of their groups and shared information of events that are being planned. Elsa also spoke about the general activities of BUSS, the events that have taken place this past year, and the plans for the future.

The activities of the following departments were also discussed: Audio/Visual Team, Spiritist Education Department, Events Department, Charlie Chaplin Spiritist Theatre Group, and the Translation Department.

Three groups were admitted to be Full Members of BUSS: Francis of Assisi Spiritist Society, Spiritist Study Group in Dorset and Spiritist Society of Windsor.

The list of Trustees was also affirmed: Adam Osborne, Davian Jessamy, Elsa Rossi, Gilson Guimaraes, Guty Marques, Ivonete Jessamy, Janet Duncan, Silvia Gibbons, Sueli Saponara and Tales Schmidt.

The following people were nominated and elected for roles within BUSS:

- Elsa Rossi - Chairperson
- Adam Osborne - Deputy Chairperson
- Silvia Gibbons - Secretary
- Cristiane Parmiter and Silvia Fernandes - Deputy Secretaries
- Sueli Saponara - Treasurer
- Angela Sanchez - Deputy Treasurer

The following people are responsible for the various departments:

- Events Department - Gilson Guimaraes and Guty Marques
- Audio/Visual Team - Raquel Villela and Alan Page
- Charlie Chaplin Spiritist Theatre Group - Maria Novelli, Cristiane Parmiter, Leonardo Rodrigues and Antonio Rodrigues
- Spiritist Education Department - Maria Paula Gonçalves and Fernanda Perini
- Translation Department - Adam Osborne and Valeria Osborne

For more information about BUSS, its departments or the Spiritist groups in the UK which are affiliated to BUSS, please visit the BUSS website or send an e-mail: www.buss.org.uk / buss.office@gmail.com

George Vale Owen Spiritist Study Group - Birmingham


The George Vale Owen Spiritist Study Group had the great pleasure of receiving two guests in August and September: Elsa Rossi from BUSS and Denis Martins from Münster, Germany. Both visitors had the opportunity to get to know the venue of our weekly meetings and contribute richly to the discussions around The Spirits' Book, the work of Allan Kardec currently being studied by the Group.

Our eternal gratitude to these friends!

If you want to know more about our study group, please visit us on Wednesdays, from 7 to 8pm, at the Meeting Room, Saint Francis Hall, University of Birmingham.

Marcelo Mota - spiritism.birmingham@gmail.com





Evolution and Free Will

Wagner Paixão

26th October 2016
7:00pm to 9:00pm

Wokingham, Berkshire

Promoted by:

Blossom Spiritist Society UK and Spiritist Society of Windsor and Maidenhead

For More Information: blossom.ssuk@gmail.com
Limited Spaces

We need your skills!

Do you have any hidden talents that may be useful for the Spiritist Movement in the UK? BUSS would love to hear from volunteers with any of the following skills:

- administration
- event organisation
- translation/interpretation
- graphics and artwork
- video editing
- creative writing
- catering
- printing/publishing
- education
- websites
- music
- acting

For more information: buss.office@gmail.com

Groups in Bristol and Manchester

MANCHESTER SPIRITIST GROUP

Quaker Meeting House
6 Mount Street
Manchester M2 5NS

SPIRITIST STUDY GROUP OF BRISTOL

Horfield Quaker Meeting
300 Gloucester Road
Horfield - Bristol
BS7 8PD

Contact: Jackie Fedozi - 07990300470.

Nadja do Couto Valle: Oct. 14 - 16



Nadja is the General Coordinator of the "Cultura Espírita" magazine published by the Brazilian Institute of Spiritist Culture (ICEB) and is the author of many books.

Nadja graduated from UFRJ with a degree in Literature, a Post-graduation in English Literature and a Masters in Education, as well as a Doctorate in Philosophy from UGF. Nadja has various articles published in FEB's "Reformador" magazine.

Friday 14th Oct. 7pm - 8pm

Signs of the Time

Francis of Assisi Spiritist Society
Stockwell Community Centre, 1 Studley Road,
SW4 6RA

Saturday 15th Oct. 10am - 5pm

Seminar: Education in Relation to

21st Century Challenges

Spiritist Education Department of BUSS
Friends Meeting House, 14 West Street,
Maidenhead, SL6 1RL

Reservation: uk.spiritist.education@gmail.com

Sunday 16th Oct. 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Dependencies without Substances

Sir William Crookes Spiritist Society
West Hampstead Women's Centre, 26-30 Cotleigh
Road, NW6 2NP

Please contact BUSS for more information.

Fundraising Dinner

On Saturday 12th November, there will be a Fundraising Dinner on behalf of the Keep Warm campaign and is being arranged by Fraternity Spiritist Society.

It will be held at Quakers Meeting House, Hammersmith, starting at 7pm. Tickets are £12 per person.

For more information,
please call:
07985 797942



Say Yes to Life!

During the preparation of the 2015 Congress for Medicine and Spirituality in the Netherlands, the organising team had the idea to launch a life appreciation campaign, the reason being the country ranks 45 in the world suicide ranking and the number is growing. In the Netherlands, there are over 1800 suicides a year or 5 a day. The congress would address many themes related to life and the last lecture would be about suicide.

Based on the CEI campaign, Life, and in cooperation with CEI itself, an action-based initiative was created with the motto **Say Yes to Life!**, inviting people to become ambassadors of life, something positive and enthusiastic.

Whenever we talk about prevention, we talk about education and information. This way the campaign runs over 4 key areas:

- Facts about suicide, its causes and how to prevent it
- The moment of extreme pain may go away; we never know what life may bring and there are many testimonials of people who think of terminating their own life, later on overcoming their struggles
- What if death is not the end? Science is increasingly proving that life continues beyond death. If that is the case, suicide not only does not solve the problem but creates a new one
- How about changing that? This is an invitation to become ambassadors of life. It is a motion for people to become more fraternal, more brotherly, more compassionate while promoting values of life

In order to enable a platform for communication and information, the team created a Facebook page called **Say Yes to Life**, which offers articles, videos and facts on the four areas above: <https://www.facebook.com/ambassadorsolife>

The campaign was launched in the Netherlands and at the same time in the UK. This year it was activated in Germany during the event with Divaldo Franco, and will go through other countries such as Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. In each country, the material is translated and an event is organised to explain the campaign. The material is currently translated into seven languages: Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.



of Life, more aware of life's course, a beautiful opportunity for internal renewal, learning, growth and contribution towards the good of mankind.

Let us all say Yes to life! For more information about the campaign, e-mail marina.steagall@gmail.com



The ask is that people click "Like" on the page and share the content, with the purpose of bringing awareness towards suicide, its causes and its prevention. Another form of promoting the campaign is to post a picture of the **Say Yes to Life** T-shirt and invite friends to join the cause. The goal is to achieve 1500 Likes by the end of the year.

This campaign does not belong to a specific country or group; it is collective as well as its intentions. The idea is that everyone becomes an **Ambassador**