

A peak inside an exceptional mind

By **Jerry Mattson**

Contributing Writer

Many people in the White Lake area are familiar with the name Joseph Sadony, a local legend; but not everyone. A website search on Sadony states in 1906, at age 29 and recently married, he bought an 80-acre estate in Montague near White Lake and Lake Michigan. Here, he worked extensively with his hands designing and constructing a paradise he aptly named Valley of the Pines. Described as a philosopher, spiritualist, scientist and inventor, he conducted numerous experiments there, held many patents and sold several inventions.

In his book, *Gates of the Mind*, Sadony, as a teenager, said, "One day when I was walking down the street, I felt very blue and discouraged without knowing why. Later, my father asked what ailed me. I said I did not know. The moment he asked the question, the answer was there. It was something about my father. In his presence, I felt and imagined he was going to die. He forced me to tell him that I was afraid he was going to die suddenly within two weeks. For the moment, my father convinced me I was wrong. But early in the second week my father came down suddenly with a fever that developed into typhoid pneumonia. At the end of two weeks, he was gone."

In his laboratories, Sadony spent many years scientifically proving his theories, many of which he knew intuitively. Behind his experiments and writings was the basic purpose to free the mind of man from restrictions of environment, faulty thinking, false intellectual concepts and all other impediments to a true understanding of himself and the cosmos.

He is probably best known as a psychic with this ability first being realized when he was about five years old.

Among his hundreds of correspondents were Admiral Richard Byrd, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Rudyard Kipling, King Gustav V of Sweden, King George VI of England and Mahatma Gandhi.

Richard Howlin has an interest in Sadony. This began following a casual conversation with a local historian in Muskegon in 2016, who spoke of research activities Sadony conducted in his laboratory on White Lake. This was close to where Howlin and his wife had just moved.

The historian said, "I think he was interested in the workings of the mind and was considered a mystic by some and a scientist by others."

Dr. Howlin is a clinical developmental psychologist. He has over 35 years of clinical experience in autism spectrum disorders and the study of the brain function of gifted children. His studies and writings have explored themes that include the role of exceptional talents in autism, the relationship between culture and mental disorders as well as

profiles of free-thinking artists and visionaries such as William Blake, the 18th century poet and painter. Currently, he conducts consultations and in-services on autism spectrum disorders, Jungian typology (a study of personality types), and paranormal psychology.

Howlin does not just keep the information he is accumulating to himself as he gave two lectures on Sadony at the White Lake Community Library in 2017 and 2018. These events were packed with people, and he heard many comments from the attendees.

Two meetings were memorable.

The first was from the granddaughter of Great Lakes freighter captain Charles Mohr, a friend of Sadony. He was out in a big storm on Lake Michigan, heading toward safety, when he got a feeling he should go in another direction. On shore, Sadony and some friends were keeping vigil and "throwing out thoughts" to the captain of an unknown freighter. Sadony had envisioned a large ship several miles away and hoped the captain would follow the hunch he should be feeling. Against the wishes of his crew, he took up the new course and came upon a schooner on the verge of sinking. Earlier, Sadony had "imagined" the plight of a sailing vessel, a schooner, with mast broken and sails torn to shreds. All seven crewmen were saved and in 1932, Mohr received a Congressional Medal for his act of heroism.

When this Great Lakes storm was finally over, many ships had gone down with an estimated loss of 250 men.

The second instance was when an elderly man, using a cane and with assistance from a family member, came up to him after the lecture. The older man said when he was seven years old, Sadony visited his family to offer his condolences on the loss of their Lake Michigan home, due to a legal dispute. When leaving, Sadony handed a stone to the boy and told him to focus on his goals and squeeze the stone at the

same time and good things would come to him. While relating the story, the man began sobbing with tears streaming down his face, still moved by his lasting memory of Sadony.

In a way, Howlin was sharing his knowledge with the local people as Sadony had done years before. Sadony wrote several articles for a Muskegon newspaper and authored books. He was active in getting the Whitehall Playhouse

open, worked on productions there and, later, helped operate its movie theater. He didn't just hide in his laboratory, but was on several organizational boards, held public offices, was a deputy sheriff, a member of fraternal organizations, and was a musician. All this from a person who dropped out of school at age 13.

During his lifetime, Howlin has met three people who had feelings, or visions, similar to the thousands Sadony experienced, where predicted things came to pass. One was when he was a teenager in Germany and a girl his age had a dream with people screaming and running from a large tent. The next night a bomb was detonated in an Oktoberfest tent in Munich. The other two occurred years later while meeting with individuals at his clinical practice.

He and Sadony each lived in Germany for a time. They share an interest in psychology, studies of the human mind and music. There appears to be a parallel theme in the lives of these two men.

This story began after reading the following Classifieds ad in the Sept. 5, 2021 issue of the White Lake Beacon: Joseph Sadony. Local author seeking any stories, past family members, encounters, letters and any other information on the man from the Valley of the Pines. Please email me at richhowlin@gmail.com

If any readers have any written documents or any other information on Sadony they would be willing to share, please reply to the above email address.

