

P.O.Box 237
Copake Falls, NY 12517
E-mail: cbmarks@taconic.net

January 21, 2006

Dear Friends,

Here in Copake Falls I am surrounded by many anthroposophical initiatives. There are two Waldorf schools, a bio-dynamic dairy farm and market garden, anthroposophical doctors, an art school, a Camphill village with workshops, gardens, and a dairy, and more. There are many study groups, workshops, and lectures. Knowing about so many of the negative things going on in Dornach and in the headquarters of the national societies, puts me in a difficult position regarding all of these. I study and try to practice Anthroposophy surrounded by people who believe that the Dornach can do no wrong. They have had access to my information regarding the negative developments and practices. Quite a number of them take it seriously and await my email newsletters about farther developments; some were jolted awake by my dismissal from the Class in June of 2004.

But most believe that everything is fine in Dornach, Ann Arbor, Stuttgart, and other centers, and most do not think there is anything unique about our present society, and that a new society that might be founded would be just as effective, so they didn't understand why the lawsuits were necessary, or why it was so important that the plaintiffs won.

And now my question is: Can I lay aside this enormous difference between us and study Anthroposophy honestly with them, or am I being hypocritical when I try to do so? (I am an individual, not a group like my Gelebte Weihnachtstagung friends who can study among themselves) I feel like a step child in the Society, and guilty when I praise the endeavors of any Anthroposophist or anthroposophical institution, like the Spring Valley Eurythmy performances. I notice that my friends all happen to be those who understand the problems in Dornach; I just can't be as close to those who don't. I invest much time in the Christian Community, and feel totally at home there. But I would like to feel just as at home in the anthroposophical groups. Do you think that is possible? What should my attitude toward Society accomplishments be, or toward uncritical adherents of that society? Do you feel a similar split and how do you deal with it?

I hope that some receptive ears are inclined in my direction and that I will get some comforting answers.

Best regards,
Christiane Marks