

Dear Members

On 5 December 2006 the Executive Council of the General Anthroposophical Society urged 46 members to resign their membership in the Society. If no resignation is received in response, we are announcing the exclusion of these members.

The letters we sent read as follows:

*"Dear member,*

*The Executive Council of the General Anthroposophical Society recommends that you resign from the Society. Please send us your unconditional resignation in accord with article 5, paragraph 1 of our Bylaws.*

*If you do not wish to honor our recommendation, the Executive Council intends to exclude you from the Society in accord with point 5, paragraph 2 of the Society's Bylaws.*

*You may comment on this matter before the decision is made; if you wish to comment, please do so before 5 January 2007. If you wish to be heard in person, we ask that you let us know by the same deadline. In that case, a meeting would take place at the Goetheanum on 15 or 16 January 2007.*

*You belong to a group that has long used polemics to attack the General Anthroposophical Society from without and create difficulties from within.*

*The attacks from outside have been taking place since 1993, especially in the magazine "Gelebte Weihnachtstagung" ("Living the Christmas Foundation"), and since 2002 in the internet publication 888goya.org. In both publications, two people appear who resigned their membership in 1989; since then they have been attacking the Society from without as important opinion-makers. These are Werner and Michaela Jordan of Horgen, Switzerland.*

*The internal burdening of our Society is the consequence of a plethora of motions and votes at certain events; in these motions, the group opposes the intentions of the Executive Council and the majority of members, and tries to dictate procedures and to monopolize content.*

*We look forward to hearing from you.*

*With kind regards*

*For the Executive Council*

*Paul Mackay      Dr. Heinz Zimmermann"*

Those of you who have attended General Meetings in the past years know the difficult tensions associated with the repeated attacks and accusations by followers of the „Gelebte Weihnachtstagung“ group.

Werner Jordan and Susanne Meyer (who has called herself Michaela Jordan since her marriage with Werner Jordan in 1990) resigned as members of the General Anthroposophical Society in 1989. They then assembled a group around them and directed attacks against the General Anthroposophical Society—at first in public letters

and since 1993 in the magazine "Gelebte Weihnachtstagung."

As a platform for their attacks, this group has used the "Association to Research and Realize the Work of Rudolf Steiner" (active from 1993 until 2004) and the association called "Gelebte Weihnachtstagung Society to Preserve the General Anthroposophical Society 1923/25" (founded in 2003). They have also used the *Gelebte Weihnachtstagung* magazine, published since 1993, and internet publication at 888goya.org, operated since 2002. Each of the above associations has or had its registered seat in Horgen near Zürich, i.e. near the home of Werner and Michaela Jordan. Articles by Michaela Jordan occupy more space in the magazine and the internet than contributions by any of the other authors.

The two associations stand outside our Society and have no connection whatsoever to it. They were founded without the agreement of our Society.

In spite of intensive publicity campaigns since 1989, the group has remained a small minority. 57 people were present at the 2003 foundation meeting of the "Gelebte Weihnachtstagung" association according to the magazine *Gelebte Weihnachtstagung* (Easter 2004). Despite their small numbers, this group has brought forward the majority of motions at recent General Meetings, and has tried to determine the themes for our work with drawn-out debates.

The accusation implied in the association's name and expressly made in the magazine *Gelebte Weihnachtstagung* is that the majority of General Anthroposophical Society members do not live in the spirit of Rudolf Steiner. There is also an accusation in the added designation "Society to Preserve the General Anthroposophical Society 1923/25" and its claim that our Society should be preserved from something, and that the Executive Council and the majority of the membership cannot or will not do this. This indicates an attitude that is incompatible with community life within our Society.

The same goes for the choice of the domain name 888goya.org. The reason given since 2002 for the choice of this name—a reference to Goya's drawing *The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters*—publicly insinuates a reproach from members that we, as a Society, cannot accept.

In November 2002, The Anthroposophical Society in Switzerland already excluded from its ranks the members of this group who lived in Switzerland.

Individually or together, the members of the Executive Council at the Goetheanum have tried time and again to come to an understanding with this group of members. The most recent (unsuccessful) effort was documented in our *News for Members* (number 25, 16 June 2006).

After long deliberation, we have decided to recommend to those members that they resign their membership, and also to consider excluding them if necessary.

We kindly request your understanding that we cannot provide more information until the concerned parties have had the opportunity to speak to the issue.

The Executive Council at the Goetheanum

*Virginia Sease, Heinz Zimmermann, Paul Mackay, Bodo v. Plato, Sergej Prokofieff, Cornelius Pietzner, Seija Zimmermann*