

## **First Class Report of Rudolf Steiner Branch**

given by Suzanne Mays:

Since the AGM a year ago, the School of Spiritual Science started a new cycle of the 19 class lessons that comprise the meditative work Rudolf Steiner established right after the 1923 Christmas Conference. It takes two years to complete the cycle when the First Class meets once a month, September through June. Members of the School are privileged to meet in the beautifully refurbished Eurythmy room here at the Waldorf School. The local First Class is small of about 23 active members. Judy Frey and Suzanne Mays alternate giving the lessons, either freely rendering them or reading them as originally given in 1924, and almost always adding their own introduction to the lesson as a kind of brief overview of the previous lessons. In June the First Class will be at midpoint with lesson 10. In Rudolf Steiner's own words to that class lesson let us hear how he describes this meditative path and each member's relationship to the meditative verses in the lessons:

*"A picture of what a human soul can undergo along the pathway from the experience of the world that is real for our senses to the experience of the spiritual world – this will be given in these Lessons of the Class through all that is said here and also through the summing up of the Lessons in the several mantras, which may then be meditated by each one according to his or her possibilities and needs. After a certain time the communications of these Lessons – imparted as indeed they are out of the spiritual world itself – will form a coherent whole."*

Membership in the School of Spiritual Science is open to anyone and everyone who sincerely wishes to commit themselves to a regular contemplative practice for Self-development and who want to be a representative of Anthroposophy in one's daily life and profession as well as defending Anthroposophy and Rudolf Steiner in instances of false accusations, misrepresentation, slander. This guarding of Anthroposophy, Rudolf Steiner and anthroposophical initiatives has been done for the past 11 years within the local membership of the School of Spiritual Science first with the creation of several websites on the internet such as Waldorf Answers to counter attacks by such groups as PLANS that brought a legal case against Waldorf charter schools in California and secondly, by constantly monitoring numerous sites on Wikipedia that reference anything anthroposophical that are subject to repeated malicious alteration or questioned as being a cult, pseudo-science, racist.

In August the circle of class holders in North America will be meeting in Spring Valley. Virginia Sease who coordinates from Dornach the tasks within the First Class of the School of Spiritual Science will be leading the 3-day conference. The last time this happened was in 2009. Many new class holders have been appointed since then. The work of the class holders and members is changing. I will attend the conference. Hopefully Judy Frey and Eve Olive will, too. A question that comes up most often in Class Holder meetings held yearly at the Goetheanum is: "Facing responsibility for the life of the Anthroposophical Society" That question is a mighty question and can at times sorely test the resolve of members of the esoteric school of Micha-el to work with all goodwill in whatever community they are part of.