

## “Traces she left behind for the good of all”

cc. After the passing of Dr Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser on 21<sup>st</sup> May of this year, which was completely unexpected for all of us, many people from different countries have expressed their gratitude about how important the meetings and discussions with her had been for them personally and for their countries, whether in the context of *Zeit-Fragen/Current Concerns* or the “*Mut zur Ethik*”

conferences. A rich bouquet of her wide connections and open-minded interaction has been collected across national borders. *Current Concerns* is publishing some of the manifold statements on the following pages, with more to follow. They all bear witness to the traces which Dr Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser has left behind for the good of all: in humane, historical and political respect.

### “She combined head, heart and hands”

Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser was a woman, you could never forget, once you had met her. She had a strong character and great will power, a big heart, a strategic intellect and was very learned. These features of her were combined with a deep attachment to her people, her region and her commune where she originated from and to where she later moved back, and ultimately to nature, culture and history. Everyone who met Mrs Buchholz could learn from her in one way or the other and benefit from her wisdom, even by very small gestures or concerning very practical, housekeeping, gardening or farming issues. Her inquiring and committed mind made her raise diverse issues such as war and peace, modern weapons, methods of media and public opinion manipulation, ethics, fight against drugs, forms of government and political philosophy, direct democracy, education and educational reforms, psychology of humanness, family, AIDS, and the history of totalitarian regimes in the world. In her research, she was always interested as well in the wellbeing of the individual as of the whole, of the bonum commune. She cared not only for the welfare of her own people or Europe, but of the entire world. Hers was a passionate and vivid imagination about the sufferings of other people, whether they were individuals or whole nations, and she bore this pain often with herself, trying to make others aware of the sufferings of humanity. She accomplished the task of leading a large organization with a great sense of responsibility, and took this heavy



(picture thk)

burden on her shoulders. If she listened to someone, she was present and attentive with her whole being. She connected head, heart and hands in assisting many people with acts of practical charity. Because of her courage and independent judgement, her attempt to oppose the manipulations of the power elites with the help of the newspaper *Current Concerns*, earned her a lot of adverse counter currents, but she always kept her chin up. Only posterity will be able to make a fairer judgment on her when the dust will have covered the distortions and lies.

At the same time, Dr Buchholz has always set out to learn from others and to benefit from the wisdom of others. She encouraged many important discussions within the framework of the *Mut zur Ethik* conferences to which she repeatedly and cordially invited Professor Robert Hickson. He remembers with gratitude the generous and warm-hear-

ted hospitality and the lively exchange about the above mentioned and many other topics. He was also bound to Dr Buchholz by the catholicity, which she tried to promote above all by the Catholic Natural Law theory, but also with the help of the writings of *Josef Pieper* and *Romano Guardini*. She agreed to the idea that power without mercy could not bear good fruit. It was she who sent him, Robert Hickson, together with a PhD student belonging to her circle, on a trip to a Swiss place of pilgrimage. Only a few years later, the marriage of just these two people was to be prepared by the local priest at that very site. Annemarie Buchholz was happy about their surprising connection and considered the two children of this matrimony as a true God's blessing.

We will be eternally grateful to her and behold her in our prayers and thoughts and hope that God conceded to her, at the end of her rich and severe life, to prepare herself in

prayer for the aim of our earthly life – Him.

We have been often praying for Annemarie and thinking of her so often – so many vivid details recollected and cherished.

We have recalled especially her Heart of Mercy – her deep-heartedness – in combination with her vivid passion and perspicacity. That discerning intellect – and strategic intelligence – and formidable force of character. With the *warmth of heart* and deep empathy and mercy. And *her smile*. (And her playfulness and laugh and warm ironies, even in English! And the worthy indignations, too.)

I was just writing an essay on a man, *Brent Bozell*, who was also very important and influential in my own life, and who died in 1997, one year after I first met Annemarie in 1996. His fiery character (with red hair), keen intelligence and eloquence, also had a deep and growing heart of mercy. (He was the father of *ten* red-haired children.) My lengthy historical and grateful essay is entitled: “The Slow Fruitfulness of His Heart of Mercy: L. Brent Bozell, Jr.” The title could now also fit dear Annemarie: “The Slow Fruitfulness of Her Heart of Mercy – Even Amidst the Sorrows, the Intimate Sorrows.”

Maybe someone would like to know what a grateful American thought about Annemarie and recalled her, always remaining faithful. So much more could be said and might be said some day about her and her heart and her lively versatility, so “always acting for the better – and the common good.” A strong woman and determined to the Good!

May she now rest in peace. *Requiescat in Pace Vera*.

*Dr Maike Hickson Front Royal,  
Virginia, USA*

*Prof em Dr Robert Hickson  
Joint Special Operations University*

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### **“On behalf of the whole of the inhabitants of the African Great Lakes Region and the Democratic Republic of the Congo”**

It is common practice in our culture that the oldest passes words of honor for a deceased. Following this custom I do so on behalf of the whole of the inhabitants of the African Great Lakes Region and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We have maintained contacts with the deceased since May 1999 until a few weeks before her death. We met for the first time when Mrs Dr *Buchholz-Kaiser* made acquaintance with defenders of human rights, members of the UN Commission on Human Rights of the Congolese Civil Society in Geneva. From this time on there were various conferences in Parma, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and elsewhere which aimed at pointing out to the Swiss as well as to the Western public the consequences of the aggrieving humanitarian situation which the Congolese civilian population in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was exposed to as a result of the genocide in Ruanda (1994): the UN operation known as “Opération turquoise” with Security Council mandate had led millions of Rwandans to find refuge in the East of our country. They were admitted as refugees in the Kivu region.

It was then the work of the independent press, *Zeit-Fragen*, *Horizons et Débats*, *Current Concerns* and others, which gave an accurate picture of the dramatic humanitarian situation of the civil societies in the East of our home country to the Western public.

However, the proverb “the prophet in his own country” is regarded of little worth also proved to be true. A certain kind of press as well as a handful of publicly acting agents ignored these articles although they were an enrichment for everybody who is committed to defending the values of contemporary direct democracy.

The death of Dr Buchholz-Kaiser is a loss. Her statements were not only addressed to couples, distinguished personalities and the youth but they were also often directed to the future generation and all those who want to help on the breakthrough of peace and justice.

Mrs Dr Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser died the way she lived. Her impressive funeral bore witness to this: Even after her death she was surrounded by people who were close to her, people from nearby or far away, many of whom belong to very different nations and parts of the world.

*Joseph Kyalangilwa Muyengo,  
Honorary President of the Civil  
Society of South Kivu (Democratic  
Republic of the Congo)*

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### **A great personality entered into eternity**

Since 1999, when I took part in the working group *Mut zur Ehtik* for the first time, I have met many committed people there, some of them in the formal context, others within the informal context and some of them within both. For me, Dr *Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser* belongs to the latter category. I will never forget how much she supported the concerns I presented on the occasion of various conferences of *Mut zur Ehtik*.

Every time I heard her speak, whether publicly or privately, on the occasion of numerous meetings, I was always fascinated by her personality. I quickly realized that I was dealing with a strong personality who shaped the work of *Mut zur Ehtik* in a considerable way, perceptible to everyone.

Curious, as it is characteristic for any intellectual who deserves this denomination, she always wanted to know more despite her extensive knowledge. I never met her without her holding a newly published book in her hands: books on economy, philosophy, religion, culture, geopolitics, psychology, education, anthropology, sociology and other topics, in short, books from the



entire spectrum of human sciences. She was very sensitive as regards errors in analysis and in untruths or linguistic inconsistencies. During the discussions she always paid attention to avoiding such pitfalls. She never hesitated to counter the argument, often with strong emphasis, if she considered it necessary. Her arguments were always well-founded and convincing, so that one was hardly able to withdraw from the persuasive power expressed by them.

In contrast to experts, whose knowledge often remains quite limited to their discipline, she always envisaged the whole issue, a fact which often impressed me as a genuinely interdisciplinary orientation. This doubtlessly explains her ability of penetrating complex situations as well as the foreseeing of their effects. It seems to me that she united “contextual intelligence”, making her a real leading personality<sup>1</sup>, and a strong capacity to synthesise, as a result of her “transversal skills”<sup>2</sup>. In this sense she combined intuition and reason in her work.

She was a true revolutionary and one of the sharpest critics of globalisation, the damages of which she tirelessly pointed out, especially those of the uninhibited violation of human rights and the right of the peoples for democracy, in contrast to that “democracy” which is imposed on the peoples by means of cannons. I remember her vehemence when she whipped the illicit practices applied by European leaders torpedoing Swiss democracy or the politics of the United States who, influenced by the Neo-Conservatives, pursued their gunboat policy (“hard power”) instead of “soft power” politics in order to enforce their interests throughout the world or more precisely to ensure their geopolitical dominance.<sup>3</sup> So she always gave support whenever citizens from North to South revolted against that what can only be called world domination.<sup>4</sup>

The human being was always in the centre of her efforts. She never hesitated to put her finger on the wound when it was about protecting people, about defending them and about standing up for their rights.

Hence, her constant willingness to listen and her great compassion with those who are most socially disadvantaged. She supported projects in favour of those deprived of their rights, of those suffering silently, who are to be found especially in the countries of the South, defencelessly exposed to wars imposed on them by the big players of this (unipolar) world. She bestowed this care also upon the “Great Lakes Forum International” that I belonged to [an association of people in Eastern Congo, as well as of the neighbour countries of the Great African Lakes Region, who work for a lasting peace in this region].

The image of Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser was unforgettably impressed on my mind on the occasion of the meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Mut zur Ehtik* in September 2013. There were already signs of physical weakness. I took the opportunity to send her a little sign of encouragement. She accepted it with her usual small wink and, of course, her usual smile. I could not know, however, that this was to be our last encounter.

May she rest in peace near our Lord!

Prof Dr Bucyalimwe Mararo  
Stanislas,  
Anvers, Belgium/Democratic  
Republic of the Congo

<sup>1</sup> «An effective leader must have contextual intelligence [...] Contextual intelligence is an intuitive diagnostic skill that helps a leader to align tactics with objectives to create smart strategies in varying situations [...] It implies both a capability to discern trends in the face of complexity and adaptability while trying to shape events» (Joseph S. Nye Jr, *The Powers to Lead*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2008, pp. 84, 87–88)

<sup>2</sup> Sève, M.M., “Management-Efficacité personnelles” ([http://lentreprise.lexpress.fr/rh-management/efficacite-personnelle/developper-son-esprit-de-synthese-en-six-lecons\\_1526434.html](http://lentreprise.lexpress.fr/rh-management/efficacite-personnelle/developper-son-esprit-de-synthese-en-six-lecons_1526434.html))

<sup>3</sup> In this context I remember severe discussions with American Congress members who had problems with emancipating themselves from the official language regulations of their government.

<sup>4</sup> Hillard, P., *La marche irrésistible du nouvel ordre mondial* (2ème édition revue et augmentée). François-Xavier de Guibert, 2013

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## “To help the Democratic Republic of the Congo to get out of the endemic crisis”

I come from the Great Lakes region, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where massacres, torture, massive rape of women are practised in the name of ethnic, national or clan superiority. There, group therapy is necessary. It is what the Lega, a people of the DRC, call “Mubiko”, something that occurs at the end of a healing conversation, “Mukako”.

To help the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to get out of the endemic crisis, which is characterized by many crimes against humanity: During my meetings with Mrs Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser, we often thought about how you can use group therapy to help the DRC to get out of its endemic crisis, which is characterized by numerous crimes against humanity. I dedicated my PhD thesis on the topic “La répression du négationnisme en droit congolais à la lumière du droit suisse” (published by Schulthess Zurich, 2013) to this problem.

In order to contribute to prevention of such crimes, to contribute to the healing of certain groups and individuals and to social peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: While we should transmit our collective experience of 17 years of encounter and of intercultural dialogue in the DRC and should contribute to the prevention of the crimes, contribute to the healing of certain groups and individuals, Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser suddenly left us. Is this the end of our dream? The answer is No. In Africa, we actually believe that the dead never die. In addition, group therapy is, as already mentioned, a Congolese value. After all, Mrs Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser, who I always lovingly called “Madame Surprise”, leaves behind many scientific heirs, who will help me to implement this project of group therapy, even if it was the only one in the Congolese province of South Kivu.

Dr iur Ambroise Bulambo Katambu,  
“Archbishop E. Kataliko  
actions for Africa-KAF”,  
Switzerland/  
Democratic Republic of the Congo

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**“... her ideas, passion for values, and respect for humanity...”**

I am very sad to hear of the demise of Dr *Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser*. I consider it a privilege to have known her personally while a guest of my friends at *Current Concerns*. I have been enriched by her ideas, passion for values, and respect for humanity.

May she rest in peace.

*Father Bernard Alphonsus,  
Canada/Sri Lanka*

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**“... fought for justice and peace in many parts of the world”**

The passing away of Dr *Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser* is a loss, not only for the long time students and friends of the Community of *Mut zur Ehtik*, but also a big loss of a feminine-champion who fought for justice and peace in many parts of the world. From my very first meeting with her and in her interventions in our meetings, I saw a woman who was quick in understanding the problems of people far away in Africa, Asia or Middle East, but also courageous to motivate other people into action for her convictions. She was quick in identifying the root causes and courageous to speak out her Christian convictions.

Though my contact with her was limited, compared to many of her admirers from the German-speaking countries, my experience in trying to lobby support from across the globe for my own little island of Sri Lanka, has shown me the difficulties many leaders of the western world had in understanding and supporting the just cause of the victimized Tamils. I remember her strong stance soon after the massacre of Tamils in May 2009, when she insisted that we all escalate our demand strongly for federal solution for our problem.

She was quick in motivating and moving people from being talkative to action-oriented planning. Many of the present who are active in the efforts of *Mut zur Ehtik* have benefited a lot from her charisma and courage for championing justice for the victims of poverty and war. May her spirit continue to inspire and strengthen us in continuing the good work of *Mut zur Ehtik*.

*Professor Dr S. J. Emmanuel,  
Münster/Sri Lanka*

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**“... remarkable strides to fight against oppression, injustice and violence”**

The recent news of Mrs *Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser* passing is difficult to accept. I recall her activism, her charisma and her strong presence so vividly in my head. Throughout our encounters in meetings and seminars she organized, Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser was a passionate individual who engaged in debate amongst her peers. Her tenaciousness and strength to continue fighting for human rights will be remembered always. As we pay tribute to her today, we should not put focus on her passing, but rather her remarkable strides to fight against oppression, injustice, and violence for all people. Let her work be a reminder to us how one individual can have such impact in this world. Thank you, Ms Buchholz-Kaiser, for all you have done. Your influence has inspired everyone around you to advance your mission. We can only hope that our continual efforts one day fulfill your vision ...

*Naji Haraj, Human rights defender  
from Iraq, Geneva/Iraq*

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**“... her civic courage was perhaps her greatest gift to us in challenging times”**

At a time when very few supported those of us who in Ireland campaigned against the Nice and Lisbon treaties, Dr *Annemarie Buchholz-*

*Kaiser* and her *Mut zur Ethik* was a tremendous encouragement and support. In fact, we won our campaign against Nice but our ruling political and media classes forced us into the constitutional contradiction of voting for Nice having voted against it. Dr Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser had nothing against greater European cooperation in trade and other areas (who had?), but shared our deep misgivings about the emergence of a deeply non-democratic rule by unelected elites, along with the appalling track record of European legal bodies in relation to a range of moral issues from abortion to gay marriage to experimentation on human embryos. *Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn* warned that when the ruling elites in politics, law, media, business, religion and culture lacked the courage to defend the spiritual and human ecology that lay at the roots of their societies, their cowardice sapped the will of the people they represented to renew their commitment to the difficult liberty at the heart of Western civilization. Dr Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser had many qualities, but her civic courage was perhaps her greatest gift to us in challenging times.

*Fr Brendan Purcell,  
Adjunct Professor,  
Notre Dame University  
(Australia), Sydney Campus;  
Fellow of St John's College,  
University of Sydney.*

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**“... her great work for us in Ireland”**

Please accept my sincere condolences on the death of our great friend *Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser*. What a wonderful lady she was, and still is, no doubt, in her new life with God. I could find no words of my own to fittingly describe her life, her great work for us in Ireland and her mighty commitment to the cause of Peace and Justice in our world, so I decided to borrow a few from “Ulysses” by Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809–1892), which I believe Anne-

marie herself would identify with. She was certainly not one to “rust unburnished”. She surely “shone in use”.

*I am a part of all that I have met;  
Yet all experience is an arch where-  
rethro'*

*Gleams that untravell'd world  
whose margin fades  
For ever and forever when I move.  
How dull it is to pause, to make  
an end,  
To rust unburnish'd, not to shine  
in use!*

*As tho' to breathe were life!*

May she rest in peace. God Bless.

*Nora Bennis, Limmerick, Ireland*

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### **“Insight into the peaceful benefits of a true and functioning democracy”**

My memory of Mrs *Buchholz-Kaiser* summarises for me what Switzerland is: a country whose only design upon the rest of the world is to radiate to it an insight into the peaceful benefits of a true and functioning democracy. Mrs *Buchholz* had a big heart, a big mind and a big friendly, sleepy dog to match. I am proud to have met her and attended *Mut zur Ethik* a few times with her in attendance. She reminds me of some lines of a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson 1809–1892):

*Blow, Bugle, blow  
The splendour falls on castle walls  
And snowy summits old in story:  
The long light shakes across the  
lakes,  
And the wild cataract leaps in  
glory.*

*Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild  
echoes flying,  
Blow, bugle; answer, echoes,  
dying, dying, dying.*

*O hark, O hear! how thin and  
clear,  
And thinner, clearer, farther  
going!*

*O sweet and far from cliff and scar  
The horns of Elfland faintly blowing!*

*Blow, let us hear the purple glens  
replying:*

*Blow, bugle; answer, echoes,  
dying, dying, dying.*

*O love, they die in yon rich sky,  
They faint on hill or field or river:  
Our echoes roll from soul to soul,  
And grow for ever and for ever.  
Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild  
echoes flying,  
And answer, echoes, answer,  
dying, dying, dying.*

I have put the lines she brings to mind in bold. I regard her as having been the principal spirit, or at least one of the moving spirits, behind *Current Concerns* and *Mut zur Ethik*. So I will express my appreciation as follows.

As a card carrying Catholic (and sometimes flag-waving) I was pleasantly surprised to find that my faith, while not shared by many, was welcomed genuinely respected. Furthermore, it was the totality of my faith, not just aspects of it, that was respected. Even in specifically Catholic gatherings one rarely has this experience. I assume that such respect for deeply held faiths and values was dear to the heart of Mrs *Buchholz*. Such respect I consider to be analytically and implicitly intertwined with any real belief in God. Where such respect is missing I cannot take any expressed religious belief seriously.

I am an amateur philosopher who founded a small craft based furniture business on the north west tip of Europe. It was not always easy to find both the money and the time to attend *Mut zur Ethik*. Coming from little peripheral Donegal to the great Zurich I initially felt a little overawed. But the welcome I received from all concerned in both Zurich and Feldkirch was like something from a *Hans Christian Andersen* fairy tale. I only wish that I had taken more to heart what I learnt about the Eurozone democratic deficit and US economics back in 2004. If I had paused then long enough to have assimilated what was presented to me and to have let it inform my subsequent business decisions, I would now be in a better position today. The catastrophic economic collapse in Ireland followed quickly on that in the US. But as Christ said on one occasion about most of his hearers:

“They hear but do not listen, They see but do not perceive.”

Finally, let me say that, thanks to Mrs *Buchholz-Kaiser*, democracy Swiss style, has been, “unveiled” (to used a Heideggerian term) to me, and I in my turn will continue to unveil it at every opportunity to others.

*Brian Flanagan,  
Donegal, Ireland*

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### **“Her incisive intellect was an inspiration to enlarge and open one’s mind and heart”**

It was with great sadness that I learned of the recent death of Dr *Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser*. I wish to offer my sincerest sympathy to her family and to all members of *Mut zur Ethik*.

We are indeed all the poorer for her passing; however, we cannot but feel a deep sense of gratitude for having the great privilege of meeting her. I recall with deep admiration her tenacity of mind and spirit and her steady and immovable search for truth. She had a keen insight into the universal human condition.

Her eminent degree of courage in her universal quest for intellectual and moral integrity left an indelible impact on me. Her incisive intellect was an inspiration to enlarge and open one’s mind and heart, to seek and search for the great and common good of all.

I am confident that her impeccable probity, brilliance and moral integrity, will continue to inspire us. I am also convinced that her charismatic, enriching character will continue to encourage all who were influenced by her genius to continue to have the courage to seek and search for truth.

*Kathleen o Connor, Annascaul,  
Ireland*

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### **“Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís” (We won’t see her likes again)**

I was indeed very sorry to learn of the death of our dear friend Dr *Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser* and extend



our heartfelt sympathy to you, her family and to all her friends in *Mut zur Ethik*.

She was truly a kind, caring, magnanimous and public spirited humanitarian, who cared deeply about the underprivileged in society and about advancement of social and political reform. She was a visionary who fought the evil agendas of governments long before many realised what was and still is happening and she did not hesitate to commit herself to this cause.

We especially remember her in Ireland for her many articles in *Current Concerns* in support of our campaign against the Nice 1 and Lisbon 1 treaties and appreciated that she sent her friends from Switzerland to canvass on our behalf. Her help was very considerable in achieving victory. We are forever in her debt.

Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís (We won't see her likes again).

John Scanlan, Ireland

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### **"... an inspirational leader"**

Dr Buchholz-Kaiser's work in *Mut zur Ethik* and in promoting *Current Concerns* is a fitting testament to her memory. It was, and still is, important to know that there are people such as she who are not only willing to defend what is of fundamental importance in human life but who are also willing to devote the long time and immense energy necessary to do so effectively. It is not given to everyone to be an inspirational leader but we were lucky to have had her to show us the way. She will greatly be missed.

Professor Dr Gerard Casey, UCD  
School of Philosophy, University  
College Dublin, Ireland

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### **"a very sincere 'Farewell'"**

This message comes to bring a very sincere "Farewell" to Dr phil Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser whom I have known through her valiant work over

the decades with the newspaper *Current Concerns* which I and my colleague, the late Dr John Marks, always appreciated.

Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser's contributions have been greatly valued.

The Baroness Cox, House of Lords  
founder and CEO of the  
Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust,  
England

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### **"Strengthening social bonding ..."**

The passing away of Annemarie Buchholz leaves a great void in all who were close to her or who worked together with her. It's nothing but right to pay tribute to a woman who took a stand for other people through all her life. Some of the important tasks that Annemarie Buchholz devoted herself to with all her heart were to strengthen the social bonds and to improve the education of disadvantaged children in bringing the world closer to them. Throughout her entire life, she was a woman of conviction who was close to all in need. To all those who knew her she leaves the image of self-sacrifice and virtue behind.

Alain Bournazel,  
President of the "Rassemblement  
pour l'indépendance  
de la France (RIF)", France

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### **"... one can still feel every human gesture of her as if it had taken place yesterday..."**

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing away of Dr Annemarie Buchholz.

Although many years have passed since the last meeting with her – I met her for the last time in 1988 during a course for medical students – one can still hear and feel every human gesture of her as if it had occurred yesterday.

To say it with Albert Schweitzer's words: "The most beautiful memorial a person can receive lies in the hearts of his fellow humans."

Her psychological expertise to exactly identify and describe a person's way of life due to his character or emotional barriers within a short time, have always been with me in my professional career and private life in a supportive manner. Discrediting the psychological expertise of Dr Buchholz is nothing less than a targeted campaign – as it can sadly be found often in history concerning eminent persons.

I want to express my deepest compassion to her family and all of her companions.

The most beautiful memorial a person can receive lies in the hearts of his fellow humans.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing.

Ralf Wiertelarz,  
MD Specialist in General Medicine  
and Psychotherapy, Cologne/  
Casa Solentiname, Ayampe,  
Ecuador

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### **"... unswervingly continue the path which the community has taken"**

Nur Blätter sind's  
(24. Dezember 1896)

Leicht mag ein schlichtes Blatt  
die Sonne bleichen und der Wind ver-  
wehn;  
leicht wird es, das nicht Duft noch  
Farbe hat,  
von and'rem Auge flüchtig übersehn.  
Doch wird das Blatt von einer treuen  
Hand  
in stiller Wehmut auf ein Grab gelegt,  
der Liebe Zeichen und des Dankes  
Pfand,  
die unverrückt des Herzens Tiefe hegt,  
dann hat's – auch übersehn und  
gebleicht  
und bald verweht, doch seinen Zweck  
erreicht.

Superintendent  
Dr hc Friedrich Spiess  
(1842–1917)

We bow to *Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser* with great respect for her career and life. Yesterday, we received the *Current Concerns* with the deeply-moving contributions to the farewell of the deceased and her legacy to unsparingly continue the path which the community has taken. Our parental gratitude for some life-determining promotion of our sons goes to Annemarie Buchholz. Her destined positive influence has helped them in many a situation. We have gratefully experienced this for years.

*Dr Hans-Hermann  
and Helga Kaiser,  
Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany*

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**“... A world, where every  
nation can live in peace  
and freedom”**

The passing away of Dr *Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser* leaves a void and at the same time it makes aware again of how important the work of *Current Concerns* is in the struggle for self-determination and a world in which every nation can live in peace and freedom.

*Dr Bruno Bandulet,  
Bad Kissingen, Germany*

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**“... unwaveringly working  
on education and giving  
assistance to the victims of  
the drug market”**

After a meeting with VPM members at an educational conference in Stuttgart Hohenheim (I think it was in 1991), Dr *Buchholz* invited me to Zurich. I witnessed how she was targeted by the “crossfire” when fighting against drugs at that time, with considerable know-how, but also with her personal strength, unwaveringly working on education and assistance for the victims of the drug market. Her professional knowledge and her strong belief in the goodness – and probably also in God’s help in this fight – did not only “impress” me, but also encouraged many others. I hope that her “legacy” will

not get lost, but will be still available and encourage many others to work in accordance with her wish on the basis of a “psychological knowledge of human nature” and its implementation! The VPM has to be revived again and carried on as “Annemarie Buchholz Academy”, even if this can only exist as “letterbox company” at first ... An Internet presence would be easily possible! Particularly now, when insane “images of man” confuse (and mislead) many people, a “psychological knowledge of human nature” is important! I would like to encourage *Current Concerns* to publish something from their writings again and again in the future. There is a “treasure” that must not be buried! Best regards and good wishes!

*Dr Hans Schieser  
Prof em, DePaul University  
Chicago*

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**“Grateful for this  
significant cultural and  
political initiative  
of our time”**

Dr *Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser* founded *Mut zur Ethik* as the conferences performed by the *European Working Group* were named since 1993. There, the intellectual foundations of politics and society, the importance of the personalist view of human nature, the common good, human dignity and human rights were worked on and promoted. The Conference, which was initiated and determined by her to a great extent, conducted the fight against the nihilism of modern society, as it was spread, especially since the 60s. These ideas gained an ever-increasing base of followers, not only in German speaking countries, but far beyond in the West and in the East of Europe, which had been increasingly included in the discussions. Many important critical minds participated in the conferences and were published in the weekly newspaper *Current Concerns*. For this significant cultural and political initiative of our time we will be al-

ways grateful to Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser.

*Prof Dr Peter Bachmaier,  
Expert on Eastern Europe,  
Austrian-Belarusian Society,  
Vienna*

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**“Lighthouse in the surf”**

I got to know Dr *Buchholz-Kaiser* in person only three years ago. By then I was able to eradicate all preconceptions and prejudices about her that are still spread in main stream media.

My colleague Buchholz-Kaiser has developed, evolving from the beginnings of Zurich School of *Friedrich Liebling*, an independent intellectual profile based on Christian values, in particular on universal human dignity, democracy and the rule of law. As she fought against the current Zeitgeist and its impact destroying society by methods of psychological manipulation, she was exposed to a barrage of insinuations and persecution. She was like a lighthouse in the surf of a society, declining in unrestrained permissiveness, unbridled utilitarianism, destruction of families, dissolution of social solidarities and international violence.

May God, in whom she trusted and who has given her the strength to withstand and resist, receive her in the happiness and security of his infinite love, which she has been yearning for. May a reflection, a distant echo, of this desire continue to provide guidance and support.

*Prof DI Dr Heinrich Wohlmeyer,  
Austria*

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**“... genuinely lived unity  
of theory and practice”**

I came to know Dr *Annemarie Buchholz* when I held lectures to the readership of *Current Concerns* and at the Conference *Mut zur Ethik*. She embodied to me the philosophical ideal of a genuinely lived unity of theory and practice. As a psychologist, she had understood human activity and action in all its complexity

and social connectedness. Her involvement in the fateful questions of the common good – not in isolation, but considering the greater whole of state- and international community – was not only admirable, but urgently requires worldwide succession. Dr Buchholz will forever stay in my memory as a sovereign personality that had mental clarity and inner peace.

*Prof Dr DDr hc Hans Köchler, President of the International Progress Organization, Vienna, Austria*

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**“... always with courage to take clear Christian positions”**

As the editor of the *Scheizerisches Katholisches Sonntagsblatt* (Swiss Catholic Sunday Paper) I often came in contact with Mrs Annemarie Buchholz. There were many occasions to meet. It was always worth it to go to Zurich and listen to the lectures of famous personalities among others those concerning American intellectual life. There I got to know Mrs Buchholz and her husband more closely. In the current issues of political life she represented the teaching of the Catholic Church. She always had the courage, whether convenient or not, to express her clear Christian opinion. The fact that some media presented from the left corner attacked her in an outrageous campaign is a scandal still today. Mrs Buchholz was able to delay and even partly stop the general decay of our society. This deserves appreciation and honorable remembrance.

*Dr rer pol. Gerd J. Weisensee MSc, founder of Pro Life, today delegate of the Governing Board, Berne, Switzerland*

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**“... connected to her by her articles ...”**

Although I didn't get the opportunity to meet Mrs Annemarie Buchholz personally, I felt connected to her by her articles in *Current Concerns*. She fit

in so well with this newspaper, which, as one of very few, still comprehensively discusses the great questions of life and the world. And to this work she contributed significantly.

*Gotthard Frick, Bottmingen*

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**“May God, the Almighty bless Switzerland”**

At the end of August 2002, as a travel companion I had the opportunity to visit Zurich and the Conference *Mut zur Ethik*. So my dreams from early years came true: I have always wished to get to know Switzerland, Europe's most beautiful country, where on 15 November 1916 Henryk Sienkiewicz died, the most popular Polish author, whose story “Quo vadis” received the Nobel Prize in 1905.

Through all my life I have read Henryk Sienkiewicz' stories. I read some of them thirty-five times, as for example “Fire and sword” and each time I feel great inner joy, which helps me to believe, that in the struggle between Good and Evil the evil will suffer defeat. This belief in the victory of the Good is strengthened with each visit to the beautiful country of Switzerland and with the visits of the Conference *Mut zur Ethik*. The Evil must suffer defeat because there are still so many wonderful people. I will never forget Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser and her companions.

Here on earth we are inevitably subjected to the law of vanishing, but 2000 years ago down to this transient earth came our incarnate God, and our Savior Jesus Christ built his path of resurrection, of immortality to eternal life in the house of God, our Heavenly Father. I firmly believe that after her beautiful life on this earth our Lord Jesus has led Annemarie Buchholz on this path.

I am a priest and therefore each day during the Holy Mass I add prayers for all my friends who have been given to me during my life by God our Lord. I remember Annemarie Buchholz, may God our Lord bless Switzerland and the whole community of *Mut zur Ethik*. Do not

permit that the light of your conference cease to shine.

*Father Jan Jakub Kurdybelski, Wroclaw, Poland*

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**“... the ability, to see what is important, absolute fidelity to truth, courage to ethics, balance and moderation”**

Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser is gone from us. The knowledge of her death was a shock to us, her passing away fills us with grief and sadness. God grant her salvation!

It is nearly two decades ago, since we met for the first time. She has honoured us with her friendship. It is a great gift from God, that a human being with such an extraordinary intellect, of immense spiritual knowledge and the virtue of practical wisdom, has given her friendship to us. We learned a lot from her: the ability to see what is important, the absolute fidelity to truth, courage to ethics (morality) and above all to balance and moderation.

For us it was an honour that she was informed about the history of Hungary and had followed the proceedings in Hungarian politics. We often talked about these issues.

By her suggestion, mirroring to the Swiss conferences *Mut zur Ethik*, the Hungarian Pedagogical Workshop was organized and held annual conferences in Budapest “Bátorság az etikához (*Mut zur Ethik*). We say farewell to an exceptional personality, with the lines of the great Hungarian poet, Arany János (1817–1882):

*Mid n a roncolt anyagon  
Diadalmas lelked megállt;  
S megnézve bátran a halált,  
Hittel, reménnyel gazdagon  
Indult nem földi útakon,  
Egy volt közös, szent vigaszunk  
A LÉLEK ÉL: találkozunk!  
(Juliska sírköcére, 1868)*

*Dr Károly Baranyi,  
Dr med Edit Laboda  
and the Hungarian Pedagogical  
Workshop, Budapest, Hungary*



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### **“... always supported good relationships between Slovakia and Hungary”**

It is with great sadness that I have learned of Dr Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser's completely unexpected death. She always supported good relationships between our countries, Slovakia and Hungary, if there had been troubles. Since the year 2000, that is over 14 years, she always gave us good answers and good advice. She always looked for democratic solutions in dialogue. In doing so she showed great patience and understanding for both countries, even in hard discussions. One cannot forget this. We will miss her very much and we are grateful to her for everything that she has done for us.

*Dr Zoltan Adorjan, Bratislava, Slovakia*

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### **“... her profound understanding of the real causes of the conflicts in the region of the former Yugoslavia”**

The news of passing away of Dr Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser has caused profound grief among all her friends in Serbia, like elsewhere. Annemarie has rich history of co-operation and friendship with Serbian and Yugoslavian philosophers and scientists. Since late 60-es of the 20<sup>th</sup> century she has shared with them conviction that primary duty of any intellectual should be defending, truth, justice and moral values as base of humanity.

Among others, she personally knew Serbian philosopher Mihajlo Markovic, one of the founders of the *Belgrade Forum for a World of Equals*. They had regular meetings within the group of European philosophers (Korcula School) engaged in projecting principles for a new model of society which would guarantee progress of the civilization, efficient economy and freedom from any form of totalitarianism.

During the last year's *Mut zur Ethik* Conference I had a privilege to meet Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser at her home, with some other friends. We were accorded very warm hospitality. While talking about various topics including problems of the Balkan, I was surprised by her profound understanding of the real causes of the conflicts in the region of the former Yugoslavia. She considered that NATO aggression against Serbia in 1999 was very dangerous mistake and precedent as violation of the basic legal and moral principles and the role of UN.

Annemarie stood firmly for respect of International Law and for peaceful settlement of all problems. She had a leading role in organizing many of her friends and followers to collect and send to Serbia substantial humanitarian assistance for refugees and displaced persons. We remain grateful for her solidarity with people in need. Annemarie proposed that Mihajlo Markovic's analyze of the problem of the Province of Kosovo and Metohija be translated and published in German.

We will keep a lasting memory of Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser as independent, great thinker, with wide horizons and great heart, devoted humanist and friend of Serbia and Belgrade Forum for a World of Equals.

*Zivadin Jovanovic, President of the “Belgrade Forum for a World of Equals”, Belgrade, Serbia*

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### **“We Serbs will remember you for a long time”**

After having read the articles in the last issue of *Current Concerns* and *Horizons et débats* written by Dr Annemarie Buchholz-Kaiser and the contributions about her, I once again would like to express my sympathy to her untimely death. Dr Buchholz-Kaiser was a fighter, one cannot forget. I am still touched remembering when she welcomed me as a guest in her home, and I will always miss her, because she was a wonderful woman and a unique person.

Dear Mrs Buchholz, we will strongly miss you in the struggle for human rights and international law. We Serbs will remember you for a long time, because you came to a real understanding of us and you always stood by us like no one else. Especially in a time when we lived through the most difficult moments in our history, during the bombing in 1999.

May you, our dear friend, rest in peace.

*Prof Dr Velimir Nedeljkovic, Niš, Serbia*

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### **“Respect for other people and their cultures”**

Dear Annemarie, suddenly and quite unexpectedly, you have left us. People from many countries and continents mourn you.

Ten years ago, we met for the first time. Our homeland Serbia just had to fight the worst consequences of a war of aggression and it was in need for greater humanitarian support.

You and many people who follow your work listened to us quietly and quite concentrated and then organized help immediately. You were able to do so because you have respect for other people and their cultures, you have given all of us the courage to go on.

It is not only Dušan and me, but thousands of people in Serbia who will always be grateful to you and we will never forget this humane and humanitarian aid.

You taught us how to fight against injustice, and that humanity can win.

Furthermore, you repeatedly reminded us that people do not need pity, but respect and understanding.

For all of us there must be a commitment to continue your legacy with the same great courage and your understanding of many people from different parts of the earth.

And so you continue to live on in our hearts forever.

*Ljubica Bogdanovic and Dušan Radakovic, Munich/Montenegro*