



SUBUD VOICE

No. 109 DECEMBER 2020 www.subudvoice.net email: subudvoice@gmail.com • Editor: Harris Smart



Christmas greetings from Subud Voice with a card from Marcus Bolt. Every year Marcus produces an original Christmas Card. This one seems particularly apt for our times.

SUBMISSIONS AND DONATIONS

Submissions to Subud Voice on any aspect of Subud life are welcomed. Send to Harris Smart, subudvoice@gmail.com We rely on donations to keep Subud Voice going. You can donate by going to the PAYMENTS button which is located in the toolbar at the top of the page. www.subudvoice.net

Never One Like It Before...

The Year To date... The Editor Reports...

Dear brothers and sisters in Subud,

So, the year comes to an end. Time to try and comprehend 2020, and to consider 2021.

What a year it has been. There has not been one like it before. There have been epidemics before, but never one that has so engulfed the whole world as Covid-19 has done.

I will not go through the statistics. You get them every night on the news, so you do not need them from me. And whatever I write now will be out of date by the time you get to read it.

Fortunately, as far as we know, only one Subud member has died as a result of Corona-19, but the virus has affected all our lives. Like everyone else in the world we must learn to cope in new ways.

The virus has affected every aspect of life, politically, economically, the very fabric of our relationships as social beings. Some people have suffered acutely. People have lost loved ones; people have lost businesses they've been a lifetime building up. For some there has been a lot of pain.

We in Australia have been fortunate in that the government has generally managed the crisis well, and people have generally been accepting of the sacrifices that have been asked of them in the interest of controlling the virus.

The year of course included an "historic" election in the USA. At the time of writing this (November 10 2020) Joe Biden as been declared the winner with 296 points while Donald Trump trails at 214.

Joe Biden has been declared the winner but Donald has refused to concede and seemed determined to go down litigating. By the time you get to read this it may have all been sorted, so I don't need to say anything more about it.

Let's hope Donald doesn't do anything really wild in the 70 days remaining to him as occupant of the White House.

[Inside Subud...](#)

Around the time the virus was first making its presence felt, Ibu Rahayu distributed her rajah, hoping to make it available to every single member in the world This act of Ibu Rahayu's was deeply appreciated, and many told me of the strengthening effect that the rajah brought, enabling them to face the situation calmly with courage.

Probably the most dramatic example of the impact of the virus on our collective Subud life was the postponement of the World Congress until 2024. As for everyone else in the world, planning has become difficult.

But we have been resourceful. We have made use of new technologies like Zoom to enable us to communicate in the midst of the social isolation both personally and collectively. Many of us have used the "lockdown" to explore creativity and communication in new ways. *(See the article in this issue about the online activities of SICA International in particular.)*

Here's one detail of our worldwide Subud life. A friend in another country wrote to tell me that they are now getting used to doing latihan and testing in masks.

Yes! It's the law here now that we are going back to physical latihan. We have to follow govt guidelines. disinfect hands coming in the building, sign a register (for track and trace), 'social distancing' (can only have 5 men upstairs, 8 ladies downstairs – we have 2 bubbles with separate toilets etc); must wear masks (mandatory as it is in all shops, except restaurants if you're sitting eating, but all the staff wear masks). And yet it's still going crazy here with 20K plus cases a day and rising..



And at Subud Voice...

We seem to be getting more contributions for Subud Voice than ever before. Perhaps it's a sign of how lockdown has made people more reflective. We do hope we are providing you all with something that is useful and valuable.

As in previous years we try to give coverage to every aspect of Subud life. An encouraging development for us this year has been that we are getting more contributions and more publicity in the USA.

We thank all our readers, and those who have donated to support our endeavour. We wish you all the best for the coming year. Let us hope it is a year in which we are able to make the very best response that we can to the circumstances with which life presents us.

Thank God for the latihan and our worldwide Subud community. Thank God for "patience, acceptance and submission".

And what of 2021?

Will safe and effective vaccines shortly appear, and the virus will be defeated and after a few months' things will "return to normal" – and it will all seem like a bad dream?

But perhaps not. I will not hazard a guess.

And as for me...

Personally, "I grow old, I grow old, I will wear the bottom of my trousers rolled" as the poet T. S. Eliot wrote.

But increasingly the words of another English poet encourage me to still see life as a great adventure. As Tennyson wrote in his poem "Ulysses"...

*Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.*

Love from Harris Smart on behalf of the Subud Voice Team, Marcus and Kitka

Subud Voice Helped Me Find My Voice...

Laura Paterson, a former chair of Subud USA, writes about how Subud Voice has helped her in the time of the virus...

A wonderful thing happened to me this year. Yes, even in the time of Covid-19. It was discovering Subud Voice.

I know this magazine has been around "forever", but I formed a new relationship with it in this time of crisis. It "spoke" to me is all I can say, and it has made a difference in my life.

There are so many Subud publications these days emanating from so many different entities within the Subud organization that it is very hard to keep up. For some reason Subud Voice stood out for me.

Maybe it's the "completeness" of its approach, addressing virtually every aspect of Subud. Maybe it's the fact it speaks with an entirely "independent" voice. I like the way it carries not only news reports but reflective essays and deep personal experiences.



Lara Paterson in mask.



There is no other Subud publication with such variety, there are ground-breaking, compelling articles. There is irreverent humor, news flash reporting, evocative and chronicling photography, historical essays. Lately, the magazine affirms my past, informs my present and inspires my future.



Subud Voice has given me an opportunity to find my own voice...



But wait, there's more...

For all of my life, I have been an aspiring writer, even my true talent testing at Anugraha in 1983 confirming, but with never a word set to page. Because, as we all know - well, life...

But last month, in the most serendipitous of ways, I became a published writer for the very first time.

The serendipitous part being that I was published in Subud. Even better than just 'in Subud', it was in a number of different Subud publications, simultaneously.

The occasion that generated this opportunity was the first ever in the Subud world virtual zoom gathering, held by Subud California on August 7th-9th of this past summer. My written account of this event was published simultaneously in the 'Subud California Sun', 'Subud USA News', 'Subud Voice', and even in 'Subud World News'.

What a bursting forth that was, it was like the birthing of my own personal Bima, that is for any of you whose memory extends back to the wayang kulit play about Bima requested by Bapak in celebration of the 1971 Subud World Congress in Cilandak. It was said that this play was performed to symbolize the birth of Subud. The role of Bima was performed by Bapak's grandson Mas Adji. I have always interpreted the story in a personal way as well, to symbolize the development of talent and capacity. So, thank you Subud Voice, for giving me an arena in which my Bima can begin to emerge.

SUBUD VOICE NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS

Subud Voice is a living, growing archive of Subud experience...

We need your donations if we are to keep producing *Subud Voice*. Surely you will miss us if we're gone.

We have continued without interruption through the Corona virus epidemic which has so radically affected the whole world. We try to be a source of support and linkage for Subud members living through these difficult times.

Just think of the value you have got from *Subud Voice* this year. Including....

If you look at the issues in 2020 (all stored on the Archive section of our web page www.subudvoice.net) you will find we have paid attention this year to virtually every aspect of Subud life including the organization, enterprises, welfare projects, SICA, Youth, as well as members' personal experiences,

All these articles go to make a library of Subud life, invaluable not only to us but also to future generations as a living growing archive of the experience of Subud...

We are the only independent, international regular monthly news and comment publication in Subud. We have always been absolutely reliable bringing out *Subud Voice* every month for the last 31 years.

Our enthusiasm for this task is unflagging. I think the past year has been one of our best. We produce on a shoestring, but we still need some money to operate in the material world...

Harris Smart, Editor of Subud Voice

TO KEEP US GOING FOR ANOTHER YEAR

Bank charges and administration AU\$600

Printing 400

Travel (to Subud events) 700

Internet (including webmaster) 1000

Phone 200

Proofreading 1200

Design & Layout 4200

Software & Hardware \$1100

Honorarium \$1000

Total AU\$10,400

(Equivalent to US\$7425,

Pound Sterling £5694, Euro 6258.)

It would be great if you could donate at least US\$50

(US\$50 is AUD\$70, Pound Sterling £38, Euro 42)

You can donate by PayPal by going to the PAYMENTS tab at the top of our home page. PayPal is an absolutely safe, secure and trustworthy way to send money.



The Journey of Little Twig

by Lynnelle Stewart and Rosanna Mount...

Our Subud project - and how it took on a life of its own with contributors from around the world...

How our book developed, by the author, Lynnelle...

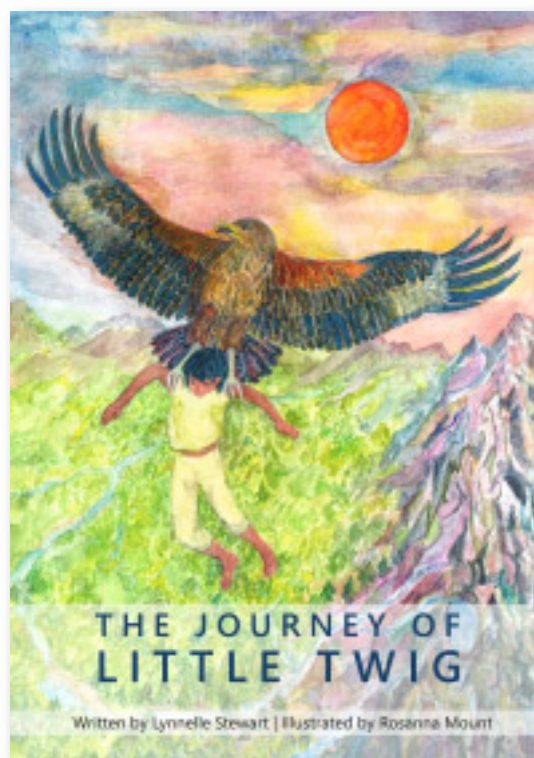
I recall Bapak testing: "How do the hands of an author move?" and my hands moving respectfully, almost reverently, across the pages of a book. Yet sometimes talents take a long time to emerge, as we in SUBUD follow the inner compass that guides us through life.

The central idea for this story arose from within, at a workshop on writing offered by immensely talented author and former WSA Chairlady Osanna Vaughn. She has authored *The Chronicles of the Falconers of Nymath*, a fantastic series of 5 books for teenagers, currently available on Amazon!

The SUBUD gathering was held in Poland, and the kernel of the story was jotted down in 15 minutes and read to the workshop. Back in the USA, the story was set aside. Eight months later, I unexpectedly and suddenly felt moved to start writing at 10pm, and finished the children's tale at 4am.

When the story was submitted, without alteration, to Wisdom Tales publishing company, they said that they were honoured to receive it, and that their publication team gave it lengthy consideration. Unfortunately - they wrote - it is a challenging time for the publishing industry and many worthwhile books have to be passed over. This considerate reply was an encouragement.

Later on, an editor at one of the "big five" publishers in the U.S. also showed interest, saying that the book was wonderful and asking for updates. Yet again, publication did not follow. So ultimately >



Cover of The Journey of Little Twig.

the decision was made to publish via Amazon KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing),

Neither author or illustrator are so young anymore, after all; and we are living in the time of the pandemic, when families are turning to online reading and education, increasingly. Even now, children's books are still an important part of our lives. The book has gone through editing and revision and taken on a life of its own. One by one, people have stepped up to help; and now the publishing process is being completed, we believe through grace and blessings from above.



Rosanna and Lynnelle at the Freiburg World Congress.

The illustrator... Rosanna Mount

Rosanna feels that this project has been a huge gift for her, a culmination of the latihan guiding her through life. In retrospect, she recognises that many threads have brought her to this point in her life today.

A few years ago, she was experiencing a great darkness within her and what felt like an insurmountable block to doing her artwork. Then a friend received she needed to pick up a paintbrush and paint, as if her soul's journey depended on it. As she struggled to put a mark on paper, it felt like needing to go through a doorway into the unknown. After meeting Lynnelle in Indonesia in 2017, and again at the Freiburg congress, they gradually got to know each other.

Rosanna was able to make a start on the illustrations at the end of December 2018, the first one being of the boy in the water. One by one, the pictures emerged out of her, often only after overcoming a series of obstacles both inner and outer.

Since she was little, Rosanna has always liked drawing. She became a keen artist and photographer, absorbed by nature and patterns. So that part came relatively easily to her. But it was very challenging drawing and painting the boy in action as well as the other people, interpreting the character of the story as it unfolded.

She had to collect pictures, hunt through myriad references and solve many technical difficulties in order to create the illustrations. She asked her grandchildren to pose for her in certain ways to help get the figure of the boy correct. You will see how each picture is lovingly embellished with beautiful colour, details of daylight, stars in the night sky, and small animals in the trees.

Rosanna remembers testing with others in front of Bapak, many years ago: "How do the hands of a painter work?" She recalls bending down to the ground gradually, and sobbing deeply on the ground, aware of a great sorrow inside of her. She knew Bapak would ask these questions for a reason, and she was grateful for the experience. Rosanna is very happy with the outcome of this book, which in many ways she feels is an expression of her own inner journey from darkness to light, and for which she is exceedingly grateful to Almighty God.

“ This is a truly inspirational story... ”



Little Twig rests under the stars.

“ I recall Bapak testing, “How do the hands of an author move?” ”

In her own words: "I feel so blessed that Lynnelle and I met and became friends. Being invited to create pictures for this book has been an extraordinary gift to me in so many ways. Thank you, Lynnelle, and thank God, Bapak and Ibu Rahayu."

Reviews and comments...

Lucy Houbart... I think it is a book that gives inspiration and comfort to both adults and small children and one that could be read many times over without losing the impact of its powerful message.

Emmanuel Elliott... A thrilling adventure yarn...This is a truly inspirational story, one that works on many levels...It's a book that will remain a treasured family possession for years to come.

Harris Smart... A magical tale...This is a book which encourages having an adventurous and fearless spirit, not for personal glory but to bring recovery to a community.

Victoria Stiles... Little twig is the story of courage and determination. The illustrations are magnificent, colorful, bright and depict the story so well. This book is a labor of love that has taken the author and illustrator years to perfect. This book could be used in any classroom whether at the public school, private school or in a home-school setting.

Lucy Hildreth... Great story. I look forward to reading it to my young grandchildren and pointing out the characters in the lively and beautiful illustrations.

To read reviews and comments in full, go to www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Reviews-and-Comments.pdf

Book description...

The Journey of Little Twig is a universal wisdom tale about the adventures and journey towards manhood of a boy who is inspired to undertake a brave quest to save his family, his friends, and his tribe.

It is beautifully illustrated with 30 magical pictures that illuminate the themes of a young person growing up to become a hero and a leader. It will appeal to children of many ages and all those concerned with them.

We expect to 'go live on Amazon' on December 1, 2020, in time for the holidays. The book will be available both as an illustrated paperback and as an eBook on Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing.

We hope our efforts reflect well upon our SUBUD community. Please find our book on Amazon:

<http://amazon.com>

Below is the link for the USA. It takes a few days, apparently, for the international markets to have access and for the entry of the book online to be fully completed by Amazon, so it may not work for people from other countries.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/0578749548?ref_=pe_3052080_397514860

Lynnelle and Rosanna invite you to enjoy The Journey of Little Twig. If you like our book, please help us by posting a positive comment or review on Amazon. Thank you.



Little Twig in a tree with two bothers below.



Little Twig says farewell to a friend.

“

Rosanna felt that the project has been a huge gift for her, a culmination of her latihan guiding her through life...

”



Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators

Dear Reader

Would you mind taking a moment to go to the SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators) promotional page at the link below, and adding a positive comment about Little Twig under the comments section? Positive comments are what get people interested.

<https://www.scbwi.org/scbwibookstop-display/?id=704215>

< *Little Twig falling headfirst into the river.*

Ridds For Kids

by Emmanuel Williams and Robiyan Easty...

RIDDS for KIDS Nature Riddles by Emmanuel Williams is now available in paperback versions on Amazon worldwide.

80 Nature Riddles with color solutions and new, cute covers. Your kids will love them... the whole family will love them. You can have great fun playing The Riddle Game together. If you love Emmanuel's nature poems you will love RIDDS for KIDS, because these riddles are also poems.

When Emmanuel took delivery of the complete paperback, the one with everything in it he messaged, 'It's beautiful.' Enough said!

THIS IS A GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT... FUN, BEAUTIFUL AND EDUCATIONAL.

ECONOMICAL AND STILL BEAUTIFUL NEW ADDITIONS

The text sections are now in a separate book. And the FULL COLOR Picture Solutions book that naturally goes with it has two riddles per page rather than one.

There are also very economical Kindle versions of all three books.

If you go to any Amazon site worldwide, select the Books category and type Ridds for Kids in the Search box you will see them immediately. And you can use the Look Inside facility to view a few pages.

SPECIAL OFFERS for Subuddies

1. 4/5-star Reviews are critical to success on Amazon. Get any version and post a Glowing 4 or 5 star Review and I will send you PDFs of all the other versions.

2. If you can't post a review but buy one of the color solutions versions, Kindle or Paperback, I will send you the text-only eBook free.

Just send a copy of your receipt (PDF, screen shot, etc) to dovetail.publishing@gmail.com and I will send you your free stuff pronto.

Note that you can read a Kindle book on any device with a free app from Amazon. If you prefer you can convert a PDF to your particular eBook reader with the free program Calibre.



Make a Video That Sells Your Product

By Hanafi Fraval, based on an interview with Simon Curran...

Simon Curran, with business partner Tom Walters, owns a brilliant little company called Noxgear, whose current sales are \$10 million/year.

Amazingly, the video you see below, made earlier last year, was shot a few days into Ramadan... Simon remembers being cotton-mouthed at the time of the filming, but you would never know it.

The video describes 39g, an exciting new product that Noxgear recently launched after a four-year development period. What Noxgear achieved with this product – a 39-gram wearable Bluetooth speaker – happens to be technically very difficult, but that's another story. The focus here is on the video and why that's so crucial to get just right.

One way of generating a video about a product like 39g is to invite a professional company to come in, create a storyline, and then run the full production. If you spend enough money, you can secure a wonderful result.

The thing is, that result might be a very polished looking video that resembles so many others out there: just another commercial video about just another product.

An alternative approach to getting your story out there is to film the video yourself. As Simon points out, it then has the potential for a far more authentic outcome. And if you work hard enough at it, the resulting video will retain its authenticity while approaching the professionalism of a much more expensive production.

Noxgear seems to have hit the sweet spot. The video tells the story of 39g in a compelling and entertaining way. It draws the viewer in, making them want the creators to succeed. It attracts the viewer to the product, making it an easy decision to buy.

Three other points about the 39g video:

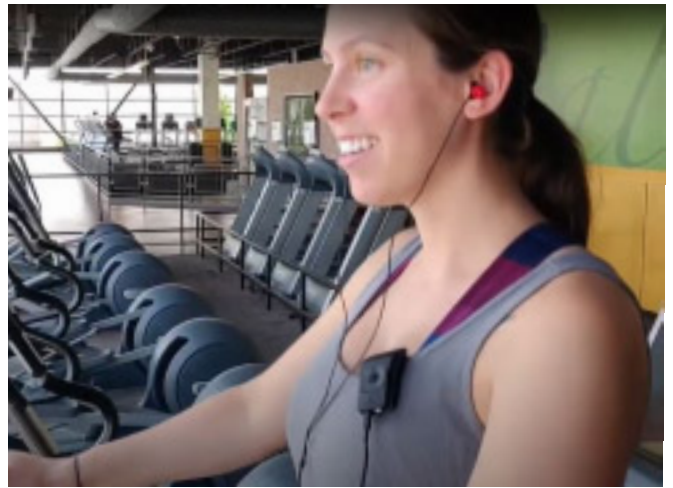
Simon and Tom were as obsessive about making the video as they were about the product. They put a hard time limit on how long they'd spend shooting and editing. They thought out many of the scenes in advance, practiced lines and probably had over a hundred outtakes. It was an intense three days, says Simon.

Humor. Simon thinks that if a video can entertain and keep the viewer watching for reasons other than for the product only, then some real emotional capital is gained with the viewer.

Fun goes with humor, and they had fun filming. They kept the mood light, which allowed the video to retain an authentic feeling. When they had a random idea to try something or say something funny, they just went with it and didn't try to overthink it.

The lesson or takeaway? Work very hard on producing and polishing your own video, but make it authentic. Judge for yourself at <https://www.youtube.com/embed/GPTShYSihtA>

To order Noxgear products: go to <http://www.noxgear.com> for Tracer360, LightHound, or 39g. ●



The video describes 39g, an exciting new product that Noxgear recently launched, a 39-gram wearable Bluetooth speaker..

Free Up Space on Your Computer

A message from the archives...

Clean out your closets and filing cabinets -- Help the archives collect material for our Subud History...

Now is a good time for Subud members as well as officers (committee and helpers), wings and affiliates to send the archives material you have been collecting that relates to Subud – its history, growth and development.

We have set up a place for receiving digital records. You can fill out a form describing the record: where it come from, the date, and who produced the document, as well as any other pertinent information about the document.

These records can be sent digitally to the archives. This includes publications (ebook or digital newsletter), reports and documents, photos (in jpg or PDF), or films and videos in digital format. To send digital records directly to the archives, see directions below.

Physical archives in paper or other non-digital formats can be described and the description sent directly to the archivist at this email: admin@wsaarchives.org

The archivist can then direct you to one of the five international archivists who can tell you if what you have is a duplicate of what is already in their collections or something we need. We can then tell you how and where to send the material you wish to donate.

For complete information about giving material to the archives, click here...

https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Free_up_space_on_your_computer.pdf ●

The New Normal?

Robiyan Easty writes...



Groups are stagnating in many Western countries, getting older and with membership dwindling. Is there something we can do about it?

Recently there's been quite a bit of anxious chatter on the airwaves about what might happen after lockdown. I know of some members who did not do latihan at home, but have now got used to it. That's good, yet there is concern that many of us will not easily go back to group latihan. Too pessimistic....?

For decades we've had as the main model to go to latihan with the group twice a week. Of late, though, we see many members going only once a week, or less. A talk from Bapak I was present at and like to quote from was given to enterprise folk in '77 in UK (77LON3). In that talk Bapak tested a brother and told him...

The latihan is your property, Bapak only gave you twice a week with the group for your togetherness. Later Bapak added: What we call the latihan, that is when we have to meet twice a week to do latihan, this is, as it were, the outer observance or the Shariat of Subud which is determined by Bapak so that we get used to being together and that we don't all drift apart ... So the latihan which is laid down and set for so many times a week, that's our common latihan... which we do for our harmony as a brotherhood.

Covid has broken the mould...

Perhaps it is time for the old model to be reworked and modified. What I see is that the group latihan has become rather introverted. In fact, a lot of second generation kids, including my own, are not enthusiastic about the group and do not go regularly. For them, the latihan is much more part of their everyday life, much more taken for granted (generalising shamelessly) and when they see us behaving oddly or badly they shy away.



Togetherness with each other and the outside world... as Subud Groups...



We oldies, when we found the latihan it was something extraordinary and miraculous. Yet now for many of us some boredom has set in, just as Bapak said it would if we didn't express our latihan in outer activity. What is more, older members, who are perhaps closer to departing this mortal coil and also find that their latihan has become more inward, do not need to go to the group latihan so often - as Ibu recently remarked.

Bapak told us that our one duty is to spread the latihan. Many of us feel the truth of this but have no clear idea how to do it, especially given that proselytizing is strongly advised against. So perhaps the breaking of the mould is a big opportunity, giving us the chance to make a change. Perhaps we should not just go back to group latihan as usual. So here is an idea...

How about going out into the world more?

How about going out into the world more, as groups, under the name Subud? There is a simple way for many groups to do this, which is through care of our fellow citizens.

Rewinding a little, there is a lot of talk about Centerprises and enterprises in general, but how easy are they for most of the group to get involved in? To involve many people the project has to be at a basic needs level. Building/renovating comes into this category.

I am asked why I still talk about working on Loudwater Farm Subud premises in the '70s and it is because for me and others it was transformational. From there brothers and sisters fanned out all over the world and several started enterprises - Hadrian Fraval, for example, became a major contributor to the WSA.

Everyone could get involved in renovating the building: manual work clearing rubbish, buying materials, skilled work of all types, feeding the workers, money men calculating the costs and tracking the cash flow, etc. Alas, such projects are few and far between nowadays.

So what can we do?

So what can we do that can potentially involve the whole group and has the huge benefit of working with people not yet in Subud?

I mentioned in a previous article that in Athens the group provided food to street dwellers last Christmas. Harina had been doing this already, once a week, working with a small group of kind, energetic young folk, who did the distribution, but moving house and becoming an IH meant she had to stop.

One of the positives of Covid has been that many street dwellers have been housed to reduce infections, but this is probably only temporary in most places. If they are returned to the streets they will need help: food and clothing for sure and perhaps even psychological support.

This could be started the day the lockdown lifts, with very little money needed, just willingness to give time and a little money for basic food... and to work together. I read that right now in UK, many who used to access food banks are underfed, including very many children, because of the disruption in supply lines caused by lockdown measures.

This kind of altruistic effort...

This kind of altruistic effort, using our Subud premises as bases to plan in and even cook in, or distribute from, could be a complementary form of togetherness, working together and with people not in Subud. It would be additional to group latihan, but from our inner feeling.

The example I give here of a group activity which involves others in the community, might be appropriate for many city groups and maybe some others, but naturally there are other community activities that may be more needed, such as visiting lonely older people, or helping with flood damage, replanting trees and such.

I have seen that helping those less fortunate is something most members feel positive about and it could involve considerable interaction with other organisations doing the same or similar. Although this does not make money for Subud, it can, as Loudwater did, perhaps act as a springboard for other projects that do.

Togetherness with each other *and* the outside world... as Subud groups! Dare I suggest that this could become our New Normal?

SICA Has a New Website

From the SICA International Team...

"We created a new "SICA web hub" (www.sica-subud.org), a webpage to function as an entrance door to the SICA world: to discover active Subud members expressing their talents from within, connect with them and other active members, find and give support as well as inspiration.

The former SICA page was a treasure trove but at the same time really difficult to navigate, created a long time ago with older technology.

When Covid-19 and the subsequent worldwide lockdown hit us, we started over quickly and created this web hub, which will be developed into our full SICA page with links to different Subud people and artists.

Our vision is to provide galleries for the different kinds of arts and to create easy ways for everybody on the page to find fellow Subud people and their work. SICA is a path to bring the fruits of the Latihan into this world, plant their seeds and have them grow.

To enable us to show your talent and help our brothers and sisters to connect with you, we would love to hear from you. If there is something you want to share about how your "fruits of your latihan" entered your life and enriched you and the lives around you, please let us know.

SICA is for everybody, and we would love to share your stories, inspire us in our ways, and enable us to connect."

Eugenia Stark continues...

SICA International warmly welcomes you to its new website & more.

To see current SICA projects, you can visit the new SICA website at www.sica-subud.org. The page, created during Corona as a hub to share information about ongoing projects as Zoomuse (<https://www.sica-subud.org/zoomuse>), will be established into the new full SICA website step by step.

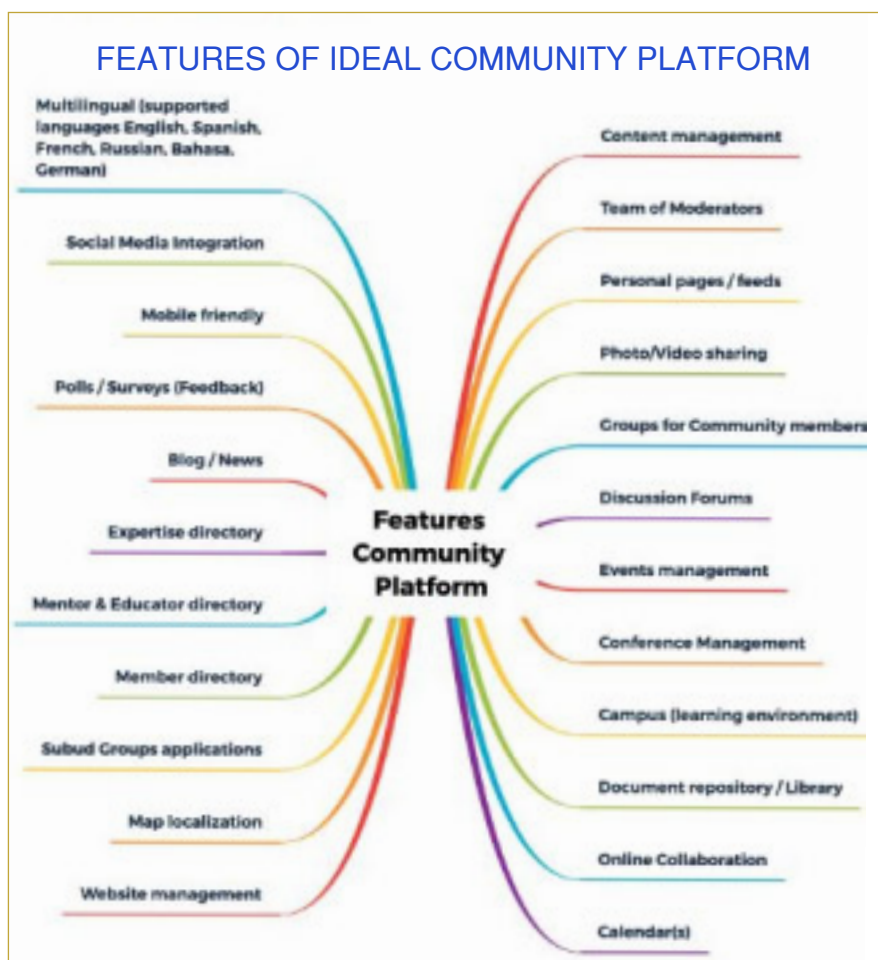
We are looking forward to presenting the different arts and talents in Subud on our page soon and hope to establish a lively connection in our Subud world with the website once.

Changes take time, so you can stay curious about how it develops. To keep posted, please send an e-mail at newsletter@subud-sica.org. We will inform you about every new development in our SICA International newsletter.

To get in touch with each other, especially during these times, SICA additionally created a Subud Community Platform for Subud members only (comparable with Facebook).

As a Subud member, you can use this platform to chat with each other, discuss in groups, and share your receivings and more regarding Subud in a safe space. Please find more information about it here: <https://www.sicasubud.org/post/community-platform>

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the community and, we are hoping to enrich the SICA website and YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/SICAShareInspireConnect/featured>) with your talents soon!

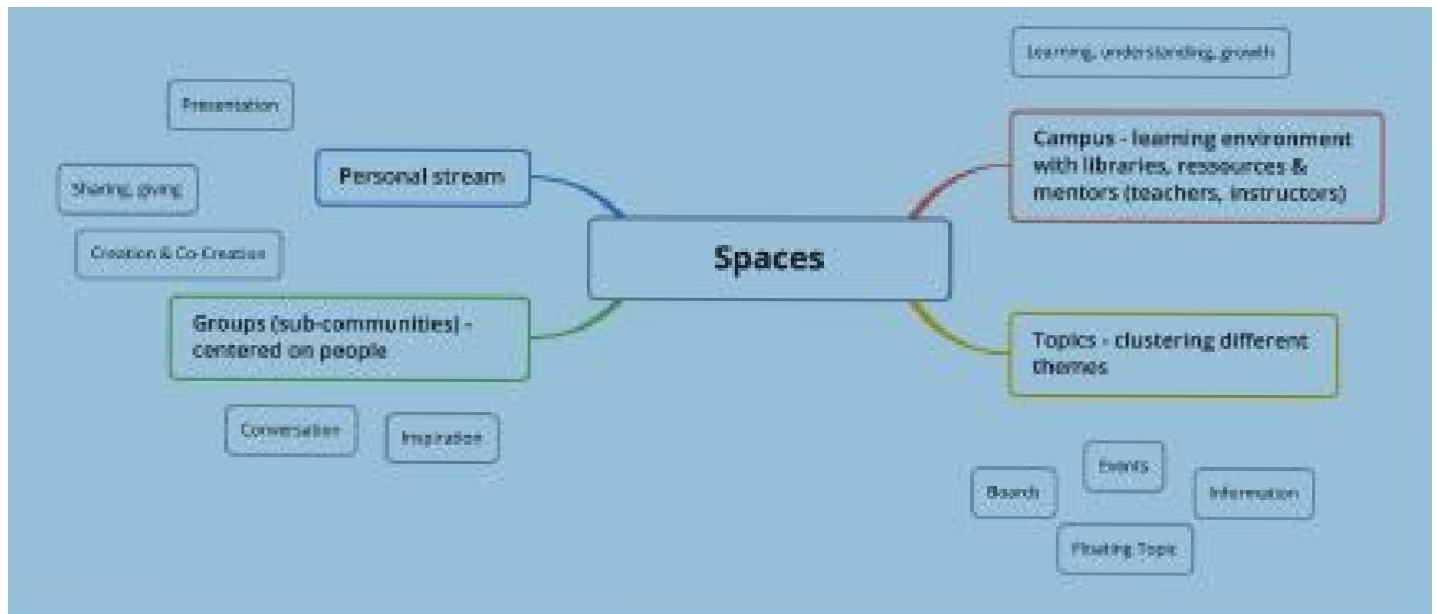


Presenting the different arts and talents in Subud and establishing a lively connection in our Subud world.

Subud Village Online

SICA international writes...

We are creating an online community platform “The Subud Village “ as a safe space for active Subud members around the world: discovering, developing, and expressing our talents through our latihan and work. Our aim with this community platform is to also support building a lively and sustainable community and culture within the "Subud wings".



Our Vision

A safe space to find information, start conversations, projects, sharing our work, ideas, and vision. Giving and finding mutual support and inspiration. Learning from each other, together developing a sense of meaning and belonging. Invitation Link:

https://sica-community.mn.co/landing?space_id=1937615

We envision the Subud Village Community platform to ...

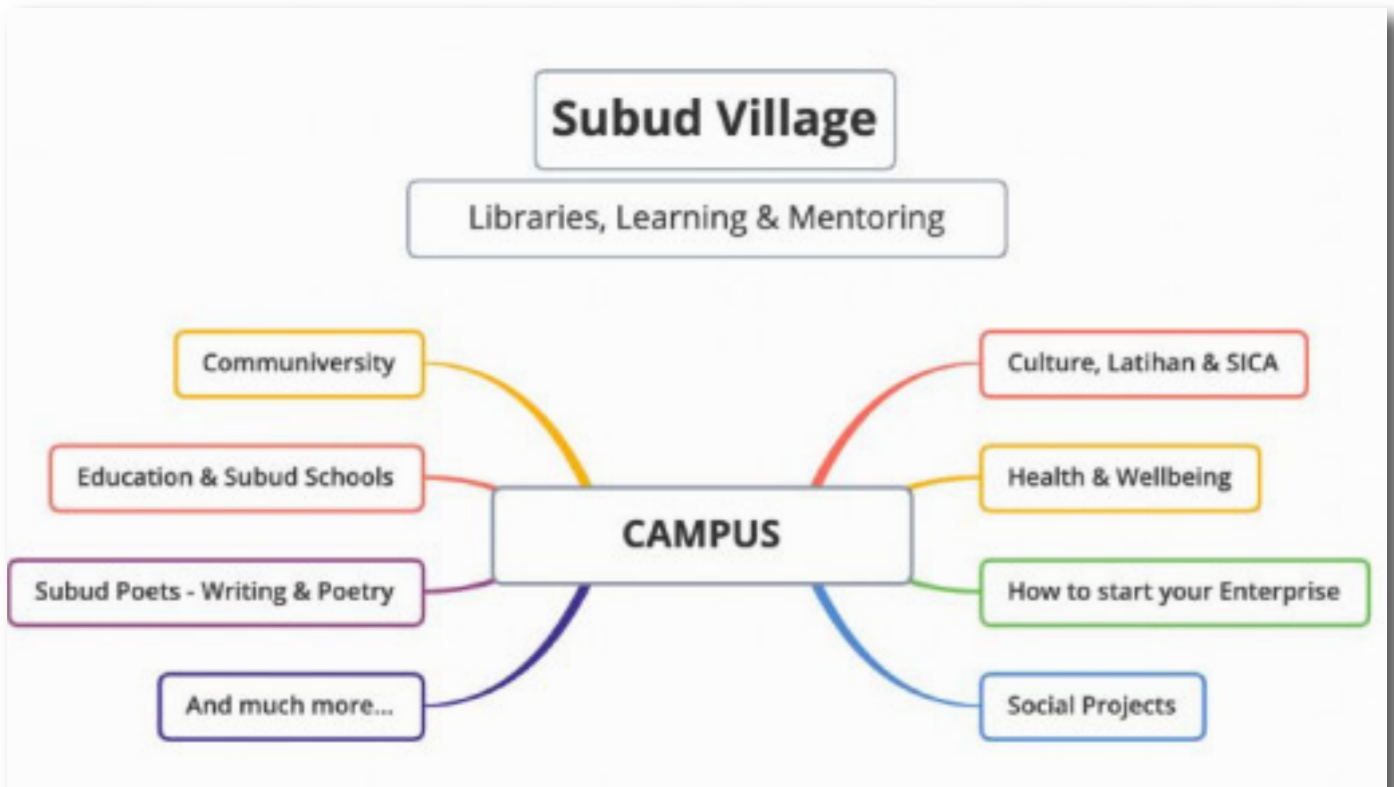
- ... continue the conversation after the different events
- ... get to know each other better, form a real community
- ... encourage and support members to develop their talents
- ... offer a learning environment for personal growth
- ... have helpers and mentors available for support
- ... bring together people & talents
- ... share inspiration and expertise
- ... co-create new events and activities
- ... safely talk and share experiences about Subud, latihan, testing, etc.
- ... discuss needs (SICA, members) and develop solutions
- ... find in-depth information on different themes
- ... discover real needs from members
- ... reveal needs and applications we don't see yet

The Process

The 'Subud Village' from the World Congress in Freiburg is our modelling idea: a shared space for all wings to serve, support and encourage members to put the latihan into action, to show projects, and share experiences And not to forget: to find inspiration and energy working together out of our inner feelings and connectedness

The idea emerged of opening up our community platform to all Subud members beyond SICA. >

For all those who seek to “put the latihan into practice and seek interaction, connectivity, and dialogue about it.



Special Feature: The Campus

On our community platform, we are developing a space called CAMPUS.

It will feature different spaces to offer courses (online and offline) as well as a learning environment with libraries (including Bapak’s and Ibu Rahayu’s Talks connected to putting the latihan into action) and other valuable literature as well as mentors and teachers to share expertise and support.

We see that a community is much more than a group and doesn’t show itself overnight, it’s a process and needs work and dedication. So, it is a pilot project still.

To see more about the vision of the Subud Village and its implementation click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Community-Platform1-Vision-Implementation-Process.pdf> ●

New Chair for Our Subud Story

Arifin Zilleruelo, SICA Chile Chairperson, has been appointed as chair of the Our Subud Story (OSS) project.

You will remember that this project that collects Subud members’ stories was initiated by Isti Jenkins when she was an international helper.

Many others joined in to make this project a great success and a very visible presence at the Freiburg world congress.

Now Arifin has been appointed to preserve and develop the project. One of his assignments will be a new web site to serve as an online home for the stories collected.

Arifin was born in Santiago of Chile in the year 1981. He joined Subud as a regular member since the end of the year 2008.

He has graduated as a filmmaker & Screenwriter in the ARCIS University of Chile and from The Hollywood Film Institute where he received a degree as Line Producer & Film Director.

Contact Arifin at chilesica@gmail.com



Arifin Zilleruelo. ●

My Love Affair with Indonesia

Dachlan Cartwright writes...

We Subud members have a natural affection for Indonesia, the source country of our marvellous siblinghood. On the other hand, there's no need to be starry-eyed about everything Indonesian, but I do admit that I have starry tears in my eyes when I reflect, with gratitude, on this amazing country.

I was opened in Liverpool in September 1963. Besides Subud, there were two other factors which pointed me in the direction of Indonesia. I was studying Political Science at the University of Liverpool. One of our courses was "The Government and Politics of Southeast Asia", and my task was to compile and organize a press cuttings file for the course.

This was during the dark days of President Sukarno's last years. The political climate in Indonesia was becoming antagonistic to religion and to the West, as Bung Karno was stumbling from his balancing act between the army and the communist party. This climate led to Bapak postponing a world journey.

The dramatic "Gestapu" events of September/October 1965, which led to the gradual assumption of power by President Suharto and the re-opening of ties to the West, eventually reversed the situation.

And the third factor was that I had a girlfriend in Liverpool who had Indonesian blood. Never underestimate the power of a woman. Lol.

The Sixties...

I went through a period in the early Sixties when I had left Subud, and became involved in Sixties-type activities, including the overland journey to Afghanistan. However, I returned to Subud, doing latihan in the Central London and Islington groups, and was able to attend the 1971 World Congress in Cilandak, travelling from Bangkok over land and sea for the final stage of the journey.

This was a game-changing experience for me, and I fell in love with Indonesia. I returned to Liverpool to qualify as a librarian at Liverpool John Moores University and applied to do VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas), naming Indonesia as my first country of choice.

In January 1973 I was sent to Bandung to work at ITB (Institut Teknologi Bandung), where I spent two very happy years. It was there that I met my future wife Srie, who was studying German Literature at the State University there. But we couldn't get married, partly because of her mother's opposition, and because I had to return to Britain at the end of 1975 on my father's illness.

Srie and I kept up our correspondence, and in January 1979 I got a job as Libraries Supervisor at KKMC (King Khalid Military City) site in Saudi Arabia, from where I was able to perform the Haj in 1980. Meanwhile I had gone to Indonesia via Bangkok, one of the destinations for the quarterly R'n'R from KKMC. On my first R'n'R I flew on to Bandung, and Srie and I got engaged. (Her mother, after praying, had seen a "vision" of me coming, so that was all right, best beloved.) On my next R'n'R, in November 1979, we got married.

Well, to cut a long story short, at the end of my KKMC contract, we went back to Britain. However, I returned to Saudi in 1981 to work on another bachelor status contact in Riyadh, and Srie returned to Bandung to give birth to our son Munadi.

Afterwards the three of us spent some time in Wales with my parents, then we returned to Indonesia, where Srie gave birth to our daughter Rianti, and where we have lived ever since.

Now it's time to write about some of my impressions of Indonesia. There will inevitably be some >



When Srie and I got married on 14 November 1979.



Srie and I with our son Munadi and daughter Rianti when they were young children.

stereotyping. The opinions are of course personal. For these I take full responsibility.

Indonesian attitudes....

The attitude to work....

In the West we tend to focus on the success or otherwise of the end product - the result. In Indonesia, when I first worked there in 1973, there was an opposite attitude. Work was seen as providing an opportunity to give as many breadwinners as possible an income to feed their families. This can be seen as a nobler function of “work”.

One of my friends, a fine Subud member, who worked as a civil servant, told me that there were times when they had nothing to do. So, they did nothing (except read the newspaper, etc) (I experienced a similar attitude from the East Timorese, where I worked just before independence.)

Can you imagine us Westerners being like that? We would be frantically looking for, and finding, something to do. I won't comment on which is the nobler or healthier attitude. Indonesia has of course now changed rapidly, especially in the private sector.

We are blessed with a very savvy president, Pak Jokowi, and a dynamic West Java governor, Ridwan Kamil. Indonesia is taking off spectacularly as can be seen in the fields of transportation and infrastructure. President Jokowi has also implemented a social security system for all lower wage earners. Quite an achievement for this vast archipelago.

Indonesians can be the nicest people in the world...

There is little ego-tripping and personality-competition in the western sense. I'm often amazed at their emotional generosity. They also have a unique capacity for forgiveness. This extends over the border into East Timor, where I worked along with our brother Harris Roberts, who tells this moving story.

Harris was involved in youth activities in Timor, and once he accompanied a group of East Timorese youth to West (Indonesian) Timor. In a get-together for both groups an Indonesian police chief held up his hand for silence. “This young man”, (he indicated the East Timorese youth he'd been talking to) “I tortured him” – and he has forgiven me”. Everybody in the room was crying.

Another point of discussion is “blue blood (or blood of another hue)”...

Being a Brit I grew up with all this. Half of Britain had this cringeworthy attitude to royals and aristos, whereas the other half, including tribes of Scousers and Glaswegians, wanted to “put them all up against the wall”. That's a bit extreme, and the Brit ability to compromise pulls us through.

And I can accept and appreciate that Queen Elizabeth has a high soul, as Bapak I believe indicated, and that we're fortunate, to have in our nation, wide souls like her father George VI and her grandson Prince William, who shares the June solstice birthday with Bapak. But the vapidness of the Queen's sister, for example, surely shows that it's not ‘blood’ which is the determining factor, but the planning of Almighty God.

It's the same with Bapak's family, who are great people not because their high Javanese pedigree is second to none, but because they're great people themselves, devoted to service. On the other hand, I know some Javanese aristocrats who can be a pain in the butt with their hierarchies and pecking orders.

Indonesia is a spectacularly beautiful country....

Once Mas Adji was driving Luqman Leckie and myself over Puncak, the high mountain pass >



Me on the Haj in 1980.



The family: Srie and I, Munadi, Rianti, my son-in-law Cas and, with his back turned, their dog Scraffy.

south of Jakarta. It was sunset, a glowing oriflamme sunset, proud peaks in a stunning skyscape. “My country”, beamed Adji. In this huge archipelago we can mention the terraced rice fields of Bali, and the “sand sea” of East Java which look like parts of Bolivia, or a more benign Mordor with both active and dead volcanoes.

Then there are the rainforests of Kalimantan and Papua, and let’s hope that part of our Subud mission is to preserve these planetary lungs from being converted into palm oil. In addition, Timor and some other islands in the east have a distinctly Pacific flavour, while, to the west, the vast Lake Toba in Sumatra is encircled by a landscape redolent of Austria or Switzerland.



Our daughter, Rianti, with her newly born daughter Cara Rose.

History...

It was recently discovered by a team of geologists, real kosher scientists, not floundering archeologists, that a mountain in West Java, Gunung Padang, conceals a structure, detected by geo-sensing, dating from before the Ice Age, when all of Southeast Asia was part of one continent. Mind-blowing, and there are in fact thousands of mysterious megaliths all over the islands.

More recently we have the Buddhist Temple of Borobodur and the Hindu Temple of Prambanan, believed by some, with their measurements and alignments, to be models of the universe, as are Notre Dame, the Pyramids, the Taj Mahal and Angkor Wat. Through the latihan we can intuit the truth or otherwise of these claims. There are documents such as “The Occult History of Java” which refer to the A-word, Atlantis.

Culture...

Indonesian culture is vibrant, continuously re-inventing itself. For example, the famous kecak or monkey dance in Bali, is not, as would seem on the surface, ancient and traditional, but was choreographed in the 1930s by Walter Spies for a Hollywood movie.

“ Indonesian culture is vibrant, continuously re-inventing itself...”

The wayang orang ballets, and wayang kulit and wayang golek (puppet) performances of Java, however, date from Sunan Kalijaga, (1450-1513), Bapak’s ancestor. Besides being the greatest of the five saints who introduced, on the whole peacefully, Islam to Java, he created much of the template of Javanese traditional culture, modifying existing Hindu elements.

For example, the approximately 200 characters in the wayang puppet pantheon each represent a human psychological trait. While in Java, we can also mention the exquisite srimpi dance performed by young ladies from the kratons of Yogya and Solo, the dramatic tari topeng (mask dance), and the erotic “jaipongan” dance of West Java.

Still in West Java, let’s mention the Badui or Kanekes, a strange remote mountain community which eschews modern impedimenta, and follows a religion which has been called “the religion of the Prophet Adam”.

Although they have persisted in isolation for centuries, they never suffer from inbreeding. You sometimes see them in pairs, in their traditional black costumes, walking the roads of West Java, one behind the other. They used to visit the late Pak Sudarsono of Subud Bandung, bringing him unusual objects from the forest. So, they are obviously clued up about Subud.



Mount Bromo volcano in East Java.

Varieties of Music and Dance...

All 34 provinces of Indonesia have their own unique traditional dances and cultures. For popular music and dance we have the dynamic “dangdut”, partially >

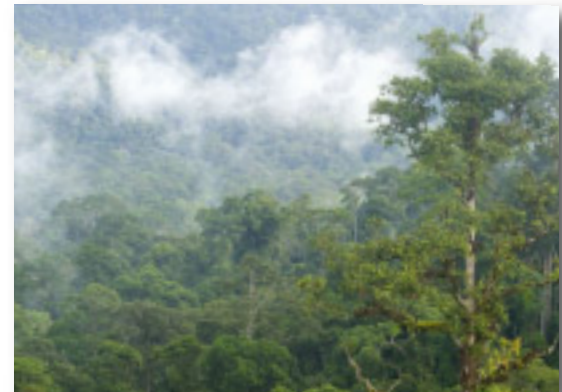
based on Arab and Bollywood rhythms, but uniquely Indonesian. Originally frowned on as “low-class” music, as was originally rock’n’roll in the West, it is increasingly popular in most Southeast Asian countries, and as far as Japan. Its most prominent exponent, Inul Daratista, famous for her “drilling” dancing, makes Shakira look like... well.

There are dedicated blues, jazz, country, and even reggae, fans and performers. The most common form of pop music used to be “cenggeng” (whining) sentimental pop, although it is now being replaced in popularity by dangdut. Indonesian rockers, however, don’t do much beyond snarling in a leather jacket. Indonesia does however boast one of the best Beatles tribute bands in the world, G-Pluck.

They are my friends. (I used to watch the original Beatles at the Cavern when I was at University.) In 2008 I accompanied G-Pluck to the Beatles Festival in Liverpool, where their authenticity did Indonesia proud. Original, and hard-to-please, scouse Beatles fans were telling their children, “If you want to know how the real Beatles sounded, listen to these guys”. Of course, the Beatles (one soul as Bapak said) are beyond time and space.



Rice terraces in Bali.



Rainforest in Kalimantan.

Eccentric Saints...

Finally, there is one recent book which gives a fascinating picture of contemporary Java. George Quinn: *Bandit Saints of Java: How Java's eccentric saints are challenging fundamentalist Islam in modern Indonesia*, 2019. I've been in email correspondence with the author, an emeritus of ANU. He's married to a Javanese lady and speaks fluent Javanese.

The book describes a journey of discovery both geographical and socio-political. Follow Professor Quinn as he, no chicken, gets down and dirty in the remote forests and challenging mountain summits of Java, living the fascinating discovery of a richly important aspect of Islam which is a far cry from the normal way in which this noble religion is misrepresented in the West,

To read Nuansantara 33, Dachlan's verse from Indonesia, click here <https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Nuansantara.pdf>

“ All 34 provinces of Indonesia have their own unique traditional dances and cultures... ”

Sanity, Practical Psychology and Subud

Ismail Fido writes from Brisbane, Australia...

Dear Harris,

I read your article about your mother and the Irish diaspora earlier. It was very good. I know you've had stuff published outside Subud, like your biography of Tom Bass. But some other stuff, like the piece on your mother, could have been the beginning of something significant. Anyway, that's just my opinion.

What just hit me recently - a lot of stuff has been doing so - is the late Pak Sudarto of Cilandak fame. He was not just "the expert on sex" but also an incredibly insightful practical psychologist. Sudarto had been a secondary school maths teacher. That would've helped.

I think many of us who went to Cilandak in the early 70s and were in our 20s or 30s had not really had the opportunity, for a number of reasons, to psychologically grow from adolescence to manhood. We were often psychologically troubled by grave wounds from injuries we acquired earlier in life and which had not healed.

Some had been in Swinging London or the Bay Area and been part of "that" life. I think "that" life had proved destructive to more than a few. I think I told you of a friend who was doing an MBA at Stanford and fell off a balcony there. Whatever the real cause, the coroner returned an open verdict.



Subud is sane and normal...



What Sudarto said, and, as a close relative of Bapak's he was intensely loyal to the latter, was insightful, helpful and like Bapak, very much echoed the traditional teachings of religion. I am beginning to believe that the traditional teaching in Judaism, Christianity and Islam provides a clean place for you to live your life in.

It was very much like the Jesuits tried to do for us at school. I think, from up there in Heaven, a lot of them are looking down on Subud with approval. That's exactly what they attempted to achieve.

I am unsure about how Subud is growing elsewhere but here in Brisbane I think we are in the process of arresting what was beginning to look like a slow, steady decline. We are beginning to have both enquirers and openings and to come together as a group without someone wielding the stockwhip. Long term we need to learn to work together naturally. Bapak said all this of course, but no one listened. Metaphorically they had both feet well and truly in mid-air.

The late Harvey Barnett - who had both lived in Indonesia and knew the Indonesian language - told me that he felt, if Bapak had been an American, he would have explained the latihan kejiwaan in psychological terms. Be that as it may, I think Bapak explained things in terms of the Javanese world view, which includes within its coherent whole what I would call a Spiritual Psychology.

Dirk Campbell was pretty much on the right track when he tried to use Psychology to understand Subud. Subud is not insane. It makes sense. We understand it by what I would call a sort of Grace.

One thing which always worries me is when those who have been involved in something like Yoga try to either understand or use it as they did their previous spiritual "method" and talk in terms of "Kundalini energy" etc. It's very much Jesus' adage of the new wines and the old wineskins here. It will come to no good.

Subud is sane and normal. We need both to present it as such and be normal ourselves. We are not "a weird cult" and need to avoid being one. *All the best, Ismail*

Ancestral Experiences

Rohana Darlington writes about experiences she has had in regard to her ancestors, in response to a letter from Ismail Fido which appeared in our November issue...

Dear Harris

Thank you for another fascinating edition of Subud Voice. I was very surprised to read Ismail Fido's letter to you appreciating an article I wrote ages ago for Subud Voice about some Latihan experiences I've had about my ancestors.

So, I'm writing to thank him and say how pleased I was to learn he'd enjoyed reading about them. These experiences were all completely spontaneous and happened as the result of my Latihan over a period of many years. Although I'm an artist and writer, as he says, these experiences are quite different from when I get into a quiet state to do my art work.

The difference is when I get these ancestral experiences two things happen. First, I seem to be in a film, as a spectator and then it becomes interactive, and the actors approach me and ask me things, or tell me things they think I should know. I can actually see them in their clothes and can describe their appearance. For example, a person may approach me and whisper in my ear, or may be part of a group and they are the spokesperson for the group.

Sometimes then my Latihan instructs me how to respond. I may say something back to the person, the words just come out of my mouth to my surprise, it is not an emotional response or an intellectual one.

In other situations, it's as though the person wanting to communicate is actually inside me, like a Russian doll, as it were. Then I experience all their feelings and emotions, and then my Lati-



Sometimes my latihan instructs me how to respond...



han responds to them in a way that seems to be appropriate, as the person then seems satisfied and vanishes.

In contrast, when working on my art work or books, I usually get inspired by something I see in the world around me, and then go quiet and proceed in a step by step way until the work is complete. It's really a very different experience to the ancestral ones.

I'm so grateful for these ancestral experiences as they helped me to see my own life in the context of many generations and if the process has also helped family members in the hereafter, thank goodness they did occur.

Touched by Chung's Comments About God

The editor writes...in the November issue we carried an article about Husain Chung who was a master of psychodrama and was responsible for bringing many people (including me) into Subud in California in the 1960s. We have received this email from Eli Dokson who has talked about Husain's impact on him. Eli writes...

It's true. I only went to one psychodrama at Husain's Human Institute, but it opened up something in me. I got very little out of the psychodrama exercises - I guess my childhood was relatively undamaging - but, as I alluded to in Lawrence's video, Husain's comments about God during a quiet time really touched me.

For the first time maybe ever, I started to contemplate and be grateful for my Jewish upbringing, in particular the meaning and significance of the bar mitzvah ceremony, becoming responsible spiritually as an individual separate from one's parents.

And there were several people there who either were already opened in Subud or who, like me, would eventually be opened. Some did not stay in Subud, but many did.

That was almost 50 years ago. And I met several other Subud folks after that who had come to Subud through the Human Institute (including Reynold Bean who just passed away).

I really enjoyed your article Harris and am glad to have the opportunity to reply. Thank you Laura for including me in this email chain. And thanks to Lawrence - now known to my fellow band members as "L Dogg" - for the video.

Peace, Eli

Eli starts talking about Husain at 12:00 minutes in the video in a video documentary made by Lawrence Pevec which can be found at this link:

<https://sica-usa.org/news/subud-rocky-mountain-creative-eli-dokson>

A Novel and the 'Man' with Short Hair

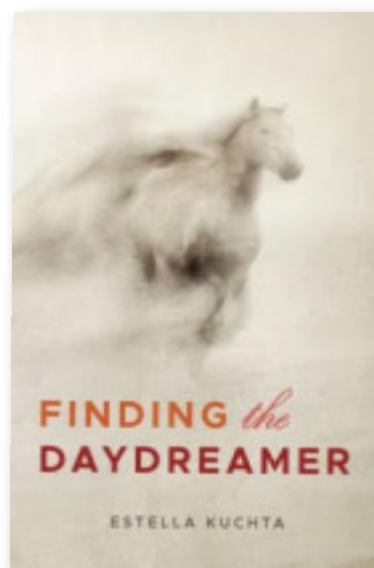
Estella Kuchta writes from Canada...

A strange thing happened when I began writing a novel about a decade ago. Suddenly, I couldn't read anymore. Even finely crafted books by Nobel-prize winning authors felt like dead things in my hands. I tried to force myself through them, choking down page after page, but I always tossed them aside before the end. They felt pointless and spiritually flat.

I thought my brain was broken from too much internet. Perhaps my attention span had shrunk. I felt embarrassed. Here I was—a literature instructor who couldn't even read books! Shorter writings felt similar, but because of their brevity, I could often finish them.

In despair, I picked up my favourite novel one day—Leslie Marmon Silko's book *Ceremony*. Although the book had changed my life, I hadn't read it in about 15 years. To my surprise, not only could I read it, but I devoured it in a few short days. The words and their messages resonated with such life, my whole being came alive from the reading.

That experience gave me an idea: What if my inability to read was not an intellectual problem but a spiritual one? Perhaps I could read books and other writings that >



contained an inner feeling of 'life,' an aliveness that resonated with my own inner feeling. Working from that hypothesis, I was able to find other books I could read: Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; Delia Owen's *Where the Crawdad's Sing*; and my friend Stan Rushworth's book *Sam Woods*.

Very slowly, I came to realize this reading crisis was a kind of gift. God was showing me the difference between writing that is inwardly alive and that which is inwardly dead. With this new awareness, I was able to gravitate to authors and even scholars whose work truly touched my inner feeling. And importantly, I realized the importance of trying to write my own novel from an inwardly 'alive' place.

The next problem was that I had no publisher. I had five unpublished manuscripts of children's book, a manuscript of poetry, and a novel still in draft form. I did testing at the Vancouver, Canada America's gathering with the helpers, asking "What would God have me do in order to publish one of my books?" I received very strongly and clearly: Do nothing, do nothing, do nothing, and then I received an image of a man with short grey hair sitting at a desk. It was clear that he was going to take care of everything. I wouldn't even have to *try* to get my book published! What a blessing!

So, I waited. Then waited some more. After a year, I thought: Maybe that man with the short grey hair is an agent, and he can only 'do everything' after I locate him. I wasted a bunch of time communicating with agents that always led to nothing. A couple more years passed, and the book was almost complete, but I still didn't have a lead. I arrived at the obvious conclusion: Latihan is broken. The testing was wrong. I felt disheartened and not sure where to turn next.

But there were many other dramas unfolding in my life at that time. Because of that, my kind friend, an occasional Subudian, offered to counsel me. After our second session, she gave me this homework: "For one week, do only things that feel like 'yes!' to you. You are forbidden to do anything that doesn't make you feel alive and have a feeling of 'yes.'" I grumbled a LOT because this seemed an impossible task given my work situation and demanding parenting life. But I agreed to diligently try it for one week.

It was during those seven days that all of the seeds were planted to every important experience I had during the next few years! In addition to quitting a toxic job, I became a member of the International Network of Love Researchers. Because of that, I was invited (and paid) to present my research on literary love in Canadian fiction at an academic conference in Utah.

During my presentation, I mentioned the historical fiction novel I had written and how it was inspired by my research. After my presentation, a woman approached me to ask about my novel. She asked question after question. I was impressed by her insights and obvious intelligence. Finally, after 40 minutes, she said, "Well, send it to me and maybe I'll publish it." I hadn't even realized until that moment that she was a publisher!

Then I did something that only makes sense if you remember my receiving: I looked at her hair. It was very short and grey. I complimented the colour. She replied, "I've never had short hair in my life! I look like a man!" She explained that she had recently recovered from chemotherapy and was anxiously awaiting the return of her long hair. I felt confident that she was the right publisher for my book. I sent her the manuscript and we signed the contract on Valentine's day, a seemingly auspicious day.

I'm delighted to report that my novel, *Finding the Daydreamer*, was published this September by Elm Books! It's available through Amazon and the Elm Books website, although any of your favourite local bookstores can



Estella Kuchta.

I thought my brain was broken from too much internet...

I realised the importance of trying to write my own novel from an inwardly 'alive' place...

easily order a copy too (and save you on shipping costs). Reviewers have called it a “beautiful and poetic story” (Stan Rushworth), “a page-turner . . . and profoundly affecting book” (Donna Kane), and “Exquisite” (T.L. Fladager). CBC Radio’s Sheryl MacKay said “I couldn’t put it down.” This historical fiction novel set in British Columbia is a tale of love, adventure, and survival. ●

Selected Talks by Sofyan Brugger

The Editor writes...Although we ran this item in our last issue I am running it again because I myself have started reading this book and it is so excellent, I think I should draw your attention to it again. It is a marvellous collection of Bapak's talks translated by Sofyan Brugger. I found Sofyan's translations very clear and a pleasure to read...

Bapak Subuh Yang Mulia, Selected Talks, translated by Sofyan Brugger, published by the WSA for World Congress, is available again.

Elias Dumit and Ismanah Schulze Vorberg of the WSA asked Sofyan to share his approach to translating Bapak's talks. They asked Sofyan to select some of his translations for a special edition that would encourage more people to read the talks and be especially appealing to the youth.

In choosing which talks to include, Sofyan asked his opened grandchildren's input - Mahallia, Madelyn, Rohima. The book includes a thoughtful sampling of Bapak's Talks on different topics, at different times, and in different places.

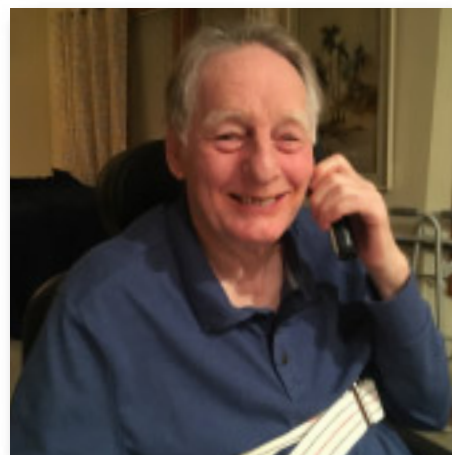
The preface of the book is beautiful and important. At the back of the book Sofyan offers his approach to translating Bapak's words with an in-depth look at the word ikhlas.

"It's a jewel of a book. A true 'must read' for all. Sofyan chooses very valuable Talks from Bapak that we all need to be aware of and his book exudes deep respect and gratefulness to Bapak. We call it love for Bapak, God's servant." ~ Muchtar Salzmann

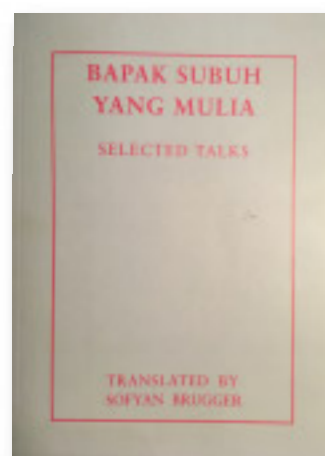
"My constant companion is this wonderful new book published last July by the WSA Executive. I find it a revelation to read Bapak's talks in the depth and quality of Sofyan Brugger's translation. His foreword describing his approach to the task sets a Gold Standard for all serious translators. I respect Sofyan as our treasured brother in the Hall of Fame of Subud around the world." ~ Csaba Erdelyi

"This really is a wonderful book of direct and vivid translations and it contains a very interesting essay by Sofyan Brugger on his approach to translation... I believe this essay has some important things to say to Subud members." ~ Iljas Baker

You may order your copy from SPI at - the password is jiwa. In the USA you may also order the book by contacting kailaniward@yahoo.com ●



Sofyan Brugger.



The Passing of Rohana Bourne

Faith Rohana Bourne passed away on November 9, 2020.

She has been a much-loved remote member of Subud Templestowe (Melbourne) for many years. She is well known for her dedicated work in Subud, particularly with Archives.

Joy, Halina and Olivia, helpers of the Templestowe group who supported Rohana in her last days write, “It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing this afternoon of our loved and respected sister, Rohana Bourne. Her passing was peaceful, and she was surrounded by her loving family in these last days. May God bless Rohana on her journey.”

Rohana was a very kind, gentle and sincere woman, always a good friend and a consistent supporter of Subud Voice. We will miss her.



Rohana as a young woman. >

Rohana's daughter Hazel Faith Renee Clarke writes...

My mother was opened in Subud, in Melbourne, Victoria. In joining Subud, Faith also took her second name: Rohana. Her mother, Winifred Walton Hughes (nee Forrest) and grandmother, Annie Catherine Forrest were also members of Subud having been opened in Coombe Springs England in the late 1950s.

Rohana was associated with the group in Melbourne for many years and then moved with her family to Canberra where she became the national archivist.

Rohana encouraged her family to learn, understand and participate if they felt it was right for them. Rohana had a great love of children and supported many enterprises. She thought education was vital to a healthy individual and a healthy society - that learning to understand yourself and your talents would allow you to become the best that you can be.

In later years Rohana and her husband, Ian, retired, moving to Kilmore, Victoria. She became an outreach member of Subud Templestowe

She was able to attend several Subud Congresses during this time. She truly appreciated the support she received from the Subud community, both online and in person.

She was an Anglican Christian, showing us that Subud does not replace your personal religion but compliments it through spiritual exercise "latihan" so that you can become more at one with your inner life and purpose, through being open to God's will. She encouraged us all to find our talents and inner guidance to become the best that we could be teaching us that: The inner peace she experienced in the last week of her life was very much a part of her spiritual life, her understanding of surrendering to God's will and her spiritual journey from this life to the next.

We are very grateful to the many friends and members of Subud that kept vigil with Rohana through latihan during the last weeks of her life. Thank you and God Bless You.

Mum's funeral was live streamed and can possibly still be accessed at

<https://livestream.com/accounts/9402209/events/9398528>

If anyone has memories or photos they would like to share with our family could they please send them to the following email address:

quietsite8@gmail.com



Rohana Bourne, National Archivist for 1997/99. Opened in 1968, Rohana has held many positions for Subud Australia. She is married to Ian Bourne who was opened at Subud Heatherton in 1975.

*Funeral Service held at
Kilmore Anglican Church,
11 Union Street, Kilmore*

Monday, 16 November 2020

*"Almighty God,
we kneel before thee in worship.
Please grant us the grace of a pure heart.
Please protect us from temptation
and bring us close to Heaven.
Please grant us the wisdom
of a human being in this world,
and we ask that in the next we may
one day stand before Thee."*

Thank You

*Faith's family would like to
express their appreciation for the thoughts,
care and support given to them
during this time of loss.*

Island Bopping

“Island Bopping” recounts Dachlan Cartwright’s journey from Britain to Indonesia to go to the 1971 World Congress in Jakarta.

It comes from his collection of poems about Indonesia Nuansantara 33. The whole collection may be obtained by writing to Dachlan at doccartwright85@gmail.com

*Bamboo long houses at the 1971
World Congress,
“We slept on prahu-prowed pondok
decks”*



Island Bopping
From Liverpool to Istanbul
I’d decanted a Levantful.
On Ararat seen meteors green
As Arbuthnot’s dream mantle.

I’d raised my thumb near Erzurum,
Sniffed rosy flowers of Trebizond,
And startled snakes where Gorgan wakes
Above the Caspian borne

I’d hung my hat outside Herat
Where towers Timurid stood
They still stand, ‘spite of bloody Brezhnev
Staining Hari Rud.

But east is west according to
Your starting point of view.
So dreading drouth I headed south
To humid climes of Kew.

Acclimatized, the SAS,
The Scandinavian one,
Dropped me in Bangkok’s shadowline.
Hey Conrad, here I come!

Pagodas, cats and gorgeous girls,
Sweet incensed rites of massage,
Entrained through Kra to Butterworth,
Terrain plainmelting mirage.

Hitchhiking down to Singapore
Through Ipoh and KL,
Teased by the Golden Chersonese’s
Ringding village belles.

To Tanjung Pinang, ferryboat,
Now counting every ringgit.
Just one more hop, to Bangka, stop,
Now on I’d have to wing it.

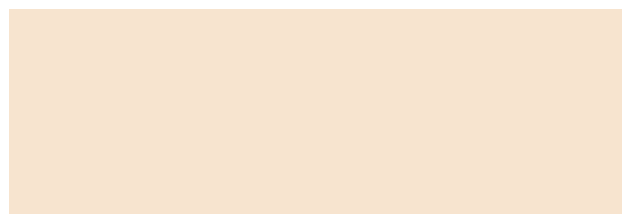
Kind Zinnmeisters from Osterreich,
Full of Gemutlichkeit,
Sought courier for their capital letters,
And paid for my last flight.

Landed in old Kemayoran
Two local buses later,
An angel winged me through Blok M
To Wisma Subud’s gate.

We slept on prahu-prowed pondok decks
While Bima dreamed in afterbirth.
The simple seed that freed big Bim
Scraped, shaped and tickled our rebirth.

The highest that I hiked that time
In terms of topography,
Were foothills of Gunung Gede.
They’re now in states of realty.

But déjà vu came shooting through,
I don’t know where or when.
Kismet kissed by Java’s mists.
I’d sure be back again.



NOTES TO THE POEM

This is the story of my first journey, from Britain to Indonesia, to the Fourth Subud World Congress in July/August 1971.

Stanzas 1-3 refer to my first journey to “the East” in 1966, from Britain to Istanbul and Afghanistan, and back.

On Ararat seen meteors green: I actually saw a bright green meteorite descending at sunset over Mount Ararat. (And later in 1984 saw a similar one of the same colour descending over Ciwidey in West Java.)

Arbuthnot’s dream mantle: This refers to John Buchan’s 1916 novel *Greenmantle*, and its climax in eastern Turkey, where Sandy Arbuthnot, one of the protagonists, is, for reasons connected with politics and espionage, disguised as the Islamic prophet “Greenmantle”.

Rosy flowers of Trebizond: This is a reference to Rose Macaulay’s 1956 novel *The Towers of Trebizond*. Trebizond is Trabzon in Turkey.

Startled snakes... Caspian borne: Riding a bus from Meshed to Teheran, on the northern route via the southern shore of the Caspian Sea, the bus stopped to rest the passengers in a wooded area east of the town of Gorgan. My friend and I went for a stroll in the forest, and startled, and were startled by, a slithering brown python. (Robert Byron in his classic book *The Road to Oxiana* [1937] describes a similar experience, but this happened further west near the Caspian Sea.)

Towers Timurid: Entering the Afghan city of Herat from the west, the first thing you see are five huge minaret towers. These are all that remain of the 20 towers of a complex built by the Timurid Queen Gawhar Shad in 1417.

Brezhnev: the Soviet leader who authorized the invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, when Herat suffered terribly.

Hari Rud: the river which skirts the south of Herat.

Kew: Kew Gardens, famous botanic gardens is south London, which has a “hothouse” where visitors can experience a tropical climate.

SAS: Scandinavian Airlines System

shadowline: refers to Conrad’s 1917 story *The Shadow-Line*, which takes place in the waters off Bangkok.

Golden Chersonese: Ancient Greek and Roman name for the Malay Peninsula

Ringgit: currency of Malaysia

zinnmeisters: coined word to describe the Austrian experts in tin mining who were working on the island of Bangka. (Zinn, German for “tin”)

Prahu-prowed pondok decks: Sleeping arrangements at this Subud Congress were simple but healthy, consisting of boat-shaped bamboo structures with partitions for three sleepers on tikars (plaited mats).

Big Bim... afterbirth: the wayang orang story chosen by YM Bapak Muhammad Subuh to symbolize this congress was the “Birth of Bima”. Bima is one of the Pandawa Brothers noted for his size and strength. His birth was not easy; he could only be freed from the placenta, the afterbirth, by the rubbing against it of a seed.

Gunung Gede... realty: During a trip to Cipanas Puncak, I wandered a little way into the foothills of Gunung Gede, one of the highest mountains (2958 m) in West Java, enjoying the misty romanticism of the mountain. Revisiting it 27 years later, I found it was covered by a luxury housing estate. (“Never go back to wherever it was”) déjà vu came shooting through: It was déjà vu all over again.

Dachlan Cartwright would like to thank all those responders who requested and received as email attachments his *Mas Adji Memoir*, as well as his first two collections of poetry. He has now completed a thorough revision and updating of his 100-page Indonesia-themed collection – *Nuansantara 33: Verse for Indonesia*.

This includes several pages of notes which can also serve as a reference guide to this wonderful country. So if you would like a free copy of *Nuansantara 33*, as an email attachment, send your email address to Dachlan at doccartwright85@gmail.com

NEW

Saving Grace – Fifty Years in Subud

Marcus Bolt

Fourth Edition (revised 2019 with corrections & additional material).

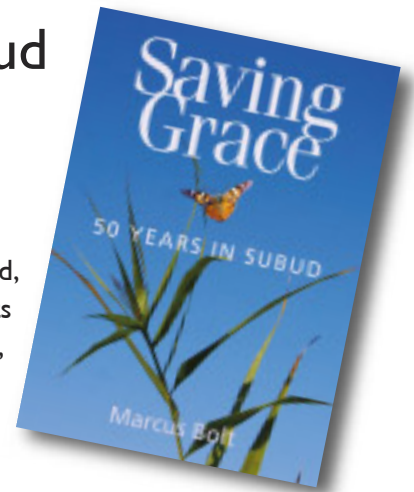
Saving Grace is a book written for those wishing to find out more about Subud, a rarely publicised, modern, yet seemingly ancient, spiritual movement. It charts one man's fifty-year involvement through his personal take on its organisation, its culture and the latihan – the transformative process at it's heart.

"Entertaining and instructive by turns, Marcus writes in an easy, flowing conversational style that gives the reader the feeling of being personally addressed. Unpretentious and refreshingly free of sanctimony, there is a generosity and a warmth of spirit about his narration that quickly befriends the reader and invites positive participation..." – Laurence Clark MA (Oxon), CBE

"In this refreshingly straightforward narrative, Marcus Bolt reflects on his years in Subud with humour, affection, insight, courage and delightful candour. There is nothing pretentious or preachy. It's all straight stuff, but straight from Marcus. And that's what makes it work..." – Latifah Taormina, SICCA

Price £11.00 plus packing and postage from SPI at www.subudbooks.com

A percentage of sales goes towards SPI's Bapak's Talks Retranslation Project



A new book from Lawrence Brazier

AN OBLIQUE LOOK AT THE WORLD

In the introduction, Lawrence writes...

This is a book about travel, people, and religion. Although I find it impertinent to write seriously about God – He's heard it all before – spirituality is also addressed.

From Muhammad Subuh: "If you can laugh from the belly you are unable to simultaneously think. You are then in the spiritual (realm)."

Harris Smart writes...

Lawrence has an idiosyncratic view of the universe. He often adopts the persona of the jester and someone who looks at life with a sideways glance, sometimes quite in askance.

Nevertheless, I am convinced he is a very serious man at heart, and this shines through in these essays. There is humour and striking observations to entertain you, but deep down he wants to get to the heart of the big issues.

The book certainly includes the categories that Lawrence mentions, travel, people, and religion, but there's lots more besides. We meet many characters in this book who include strangers he has met on his travels, as well as famous people past and present.

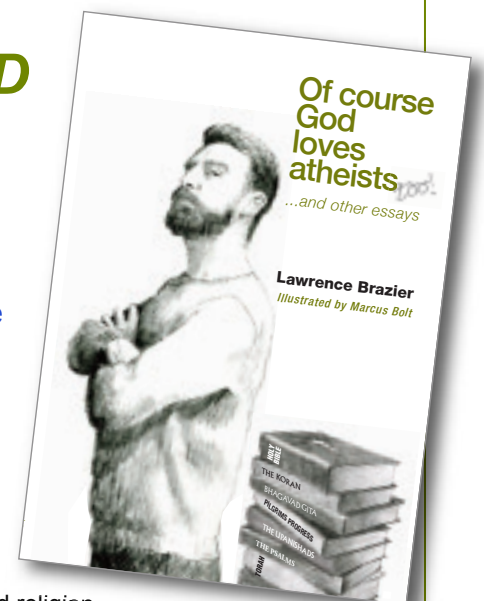
Other chapters are based on thorough research. His wonderful essay "The Orientalists", which we recently republished in *Subud Voice*, is a fascinating survey of those Brits who embraced Oriental beliefs and lifestyles.

There are jokey pieces about sarongs and getting blessed by sneezing, but above all one senses the deep wonder of his good fortune, which he has received in a difficult world.

Beautifully designed by Marcus Bolt, who has also illustrated the cover and LB's cartoons, **the book can be obtained from:**

www.lulu.com/search?adult_audience_rating=00&q=Of%20Course%20God%20Loves%20Atheists%20Lawrence%20Brazier
Click on the link above, or copy and paste into your browser. When the page opens, click the book title; then click 'Add to cart; then click the cart icon top right (with the number of books ordered in a circle), and then follow the onscreen prompts to add your delivery address and preferred postage & payment methods

Paperback, 216 pages; ISBN: 978-71662-730-9: price £10.00 plus postage. Books normally take a week to arrive.

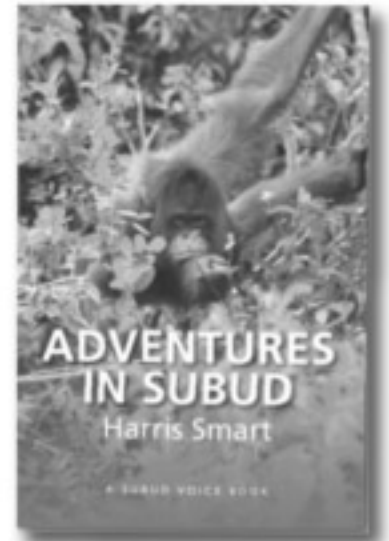


ADVENTURES IN SUBUD! NOW RELEASED IN DIGITAL EDITION!

At the time of the Freiburg Congress I released a new book about Subud called ADVENTURES IN SUBUD. The book has been available since then on [Lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com)

We are now releasing the book in a digital format which includes all the material text and illustrations in the same layout as is included in the physical book Lulu edition.

The advantages with this new addition is that it is cheaper and you will receive it instantly rather than having to wait for it to be printed and come to you by post. The cost of the new digital version is U\$17.50 (approximately **A\$25, £13.5, €15**),



To obtain the book.. CLICK ON THIS LINK <https://www.subudvoice.net/shop>

This will take you to a page where the book is listed by a thumbnail of the cover. Click on this and follow the prompts to pay for an obtain the digital copy of the book.

The original physical book version is still available from Lulu.com. Go to [Lulu.com](https://www.lulu.com) and enter ADVENTURES IN SUBUD in the search slot on the homepage.

PROCEEDS FROM THE BOOK GO TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUING PUBLICATION OF SUBUD VOICE. WE ARE ENTERPRISING AT SUBUD VOICE!

Here is a description of the book with comments by readers...

Adventures in Subud is a new book by Harris Smart. It presents an overview of the development of Subud covering practically every aspect of Subud life including spiritual experiences, enterprises, welfare projects, cultural projects, health and healing and youth. It is 360 pages long with 120 illustrations including photographs and also cartoons by Marcus Bolt and Dirk Campbell. It shows Subud as a dynamic movement combining spirituality and action in the world.

"This is a feast of a book, rich in history, explanation and vintage anecdote, woven together through the steadfast voice of Harris Smart, long term editor of Subud Voice.

"This is a masterful and at time heart-wrenching record of our Subud experience over recent decades: replete with it hope and disappointment, revelation and joy – leavened with the marvellously irreverent cartoons of Marcus Bolt and Dirk Campbell."

"This is the story of my community, a very precious part of my life." *Dr Livingston Armytage*

"A book that will open doors to enquirers about Subud and is a major contribution to our knowledge about Subud and its positive impact in the world. A comprehensive panoramic view of people and their spirituality written by a seasoned journalist. *Valentine Navey*

"A varied and colourful collection of lived adventures that well reflect the diversity of human nature." *Leonard Lassalle*

"Harris Smart's latest (and finest) book...It aims at providing a 'one-stop shop' for enquirers with coverage of all aspects of Subud." *Hussein Rawlings*

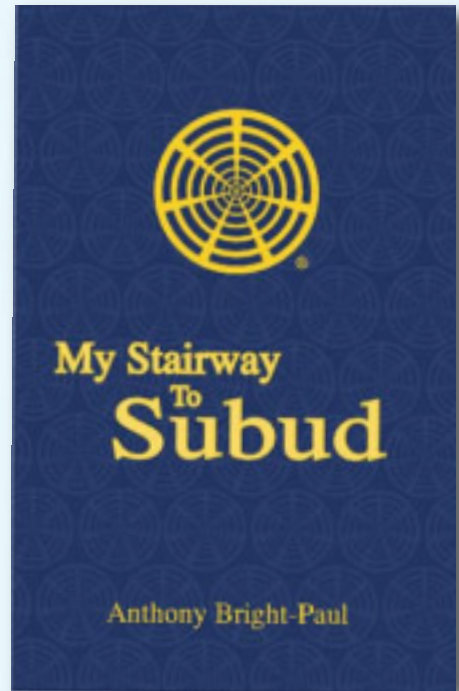
"I would like to recommend 'Adventures in Subud' to anyone on, or about to start, a spiritual path. As a spiritual path, by its very nature, is very difficult to describe I recommend that you open the book at random and read what is there. If it resonates then go on." *Edward Mackenzie* ●

Much of *My Stairway to Subud* first appeared as the record of a young man in the early 1950s searching for values and inner understanding. At various times he was an admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, a student with the Sri Ramakrishna Vedanta Society, then a follower of G.I.Gurdjieff for seven years under the direction of J.G.Bennett, author of *The Dramatic Universe* and *What are we living for?* – His search reached an explosive climax when Pak Subuh, the founder of the international spiritual movement Subud, came to England in 1957.

Anthony Bright-Paul gives an acutely observed account of the Gurdjieff methods as performed and practised at Coombe Springs with John Bennett, and a first-hand account of both the euphoria and the upheaval caused by the arrival of Pak Subuh who brought with him the latihan kejiwaan, the spiritual training of Subud.

Because he was so devoted to the ideas of Gurdjieff, and to John Bennett personally, the story of his initial resistance to Subud, and then his complete reversal, makes poignant and dramatic reading. His chronicle of the early days in Subud in the western world is unique for its detail of this period. Available from SPI at: www.subudbooks.com

PRICE £10.00 incl P&P UK (*plus Postage rest of world*).



NEW!! They Were There: *The Best of Subud Voice* Volume 3

Compiled by Ilaina Lennard

- * Early meetings with Bapak
- * The Charismatics and the Quakers
- * The Whatcombe House story
- * Advice from Bapak about sexual relationships
- * When the sexual act is moved by the soul
- * Mas Sudarto's experience
- * My childhood as Bapak's son: Mas Harjono describes his early life
- * Konrad Arifin's extraordinary journey beyond this world and much, much more...



To order the book (£12 plus postage), click the link, www.lulu.com then type [23595226](https://www.lulu.com/search?keyword=23595226) into the search box, then follow the on-screen prompts to the shopping basket, and set preferred payment method, delivery/billing address(es) and postage rate. Books normally take 3 to 5 days to arrive.

An Extraordinary Man
 Stories of Subud Members'
 Experiences of Bapak
NOW AVAILABLE
AGAIN FROM SPI
 £12.00 plus p&p.
 For full details visit our website
www.subudbooks.com



Pay by UK bank cheque or
 via our website: www.subudbooks.com
 Subud Publications International
 47 Waverley Road
 St Albans
 Herts AL3 5PH
 tel: +44 (0) 1727 762210

SPI
 Subud
 Publications
 International

e-mail: spi@subudbooks.co.uk

**NEW DVDs
 FROM SPI**

**Bapak's video Talks
 subtitled in English**

currently available:
 81 NYC 4, 81 YVR 3
 81 NYC 5, 81 YVR 4
 81 YVR 2, 81 LAX 1
 83 LON 8, 83 LON 22
 83 LON 18

For full details visit our website
www.subudbooks.com
MEMBER LOGIN
**PRICE £10.00 plus postage and
 packing**

Pay by UK bank cheque or via our
 website:
 Subud Publications International
 47 Waverley Road
 St Albans
 Herts AL3 5PH
 telephone:
 +44 (0) 1727 762210

SPI
 Subud
 Publications
 International

e-mail: spi@subudbooks.co.uk

NEW
**ADVICE
 & GUIDANCE
 FOR BAPAK'S
 HELPERS**
 SOFTBACK EDITION



**NOW AVAILABLE
 FROM**
www.subudbooks.com
MEMBER LOGIN
PRICE £10.00
 plus postage and packing

Pay by UK bank cheque, or via our
 website: www.subudbooks.com
 Subud Publications International
 47 Waverley Road
 St Albans
 Herts AL3 5PH
 tel: +44 (0) 1727 762210

SPI
 Subud
 Publications
 International

e-mail: spi@subudbooks.co.uk

**BAPAK'S TALKS
 VOLUMES 1-35
 NOW AVAILABLE AS
 eBOOKS FOR KINDLE,
 iPad etc. £5 each from:**

www.subudbooks.com
MEMBER LOGIN

follow the online
 prompts to
 download and pay
 by Debit or Credit
 Card

SPI
 Subud
 Publications
 International

e-mail: spi@subudbooks.co.uk

**BAPAK'S TALKS
 VOLUME 35
 AVAILABLE NOW**

£13.00 plus postage and packing

Pay by UK bank cheque, or via our
 website:
www.subudbooks.com
MEMBER LOGIN

Subud Publications International
 47 Waverley Road
 St Albans
 Herts AL3 5PH
 telephone:
 +44 (0) 1727 762210

SPI
 Subud
 Publications
 International

e-mail: spi@subudbooks.co.uk

SUBUDVOICE

MONTHLY ONLINE

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
20 DECEMBER 2020

Subud Voice is published online monthly and
 issued on the 1st of each month at

www.subudvoice.net

SUBMISSIONS

Send articles, photos, cartoons etc. to Harris
 Smart, Editor Subud Voice,
 email: subudvoice@gmail.com
 Tel: + 61 (0)402 842 807

Submissions are invited which relate to Subud
 life or are from Subud members. We cannot
 guarantee when or if a submission will be pub-
 lished. Preference will be given to articles of up
 to 2000 words or less accompanied by a pho-
 tograph, well-written in English and dealing
 with the activities of Subud members, or ex-
 pressing a Subud member's perspective on a
 subject.

Articles should be written in such a way that they
 are intelligible and interesting to both Subud mem-
 bers and the general public. Sometimes this may
 mean providing an explanatory introduction or
 notes for the non-Subud reader. There is no payment
 for submissions. Correspondence about articles will
 generally not be entered into.

Submissions to Subud Voice may – be edited for
 a variety of reasons including the need to
 shorten them or improve expression. If you do
 not want your submission to be edited in any
 way, please mark it clearly NOT TO BE EDITED.

The opinions expressed in the various articles
 are the sole responsibility of their authors and
 cannot be seen as representing the opinion of
 either the editor or the World Subud Association.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Classifieds: 50 cents a word. Minimum charge
 AUD\$15.00. Display rates on request. (Devel-
 oping countries – no charge).

To make payments by credit card to Subud
 Voice for any purpose including sponsorship, go
 to our website www.subudvoice.net and click
 on the PAYMENTS button on the left hand side
 of the screen. Payments can be made there to
 our PayPal account Or contact us for bank de-
 tails for bank transfers. Do not forget to indi-
 cate if you would like your sponsorship to be
 publicly acknowledged.

SUBUD VOICE TEAM

Harris Smart: Editor and Business Manager
 Marcus Bolt: Design and Layout
 Kitka Hiltula: Webmaster

*The opinions expressed in the various articles are
 the sole responsibility of their authors and can not
 be seen as representing the opinion of the World
 Subud Association.*

*The name Subud ® and the Seven Circles
 Symbol are registered marks of the World
 Subud Association (WSA).*