



Congress in Australia



As has become customary in Australia, the Congress began by acknowledging the indigenous people who are the traditional custodians of the land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation. We pay our respects to their elders and to their continuing cultural spiritual and religious practices. Tribal dancers opened the Congress with a performance of a traditional warrior dance.

Harris Smart reports on the 2023 Subud Australia Congress...

For a birds eye view of the Australian Congress see this video by Stephen and Lyndan Armytage and friends featuring a soundtrack by Frances Madden's The Tango Never Lies...

<https://youtu.be/rl5SSOE0h1g>

Now read on...

It was like we created a great big space and when we came into that space we were made better people; what was best in us came out.

I'm talking about the Subud Australia Congress, which we just had from January 2-8 in the city of Perth in Western Australia. It was a long way to go for most of us who live on the east coast, but it turned out to be a journey well worth making.

About 150 people came from all around Australia and the numbers at Congress were swelled by >

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Send to Harris Smart, subudvoice@gmail.com

the 40 or so members from Perth itself. There were also visitors from overseas, from Indonesia, from New Zealand and even one person from Denmark.

The venue was the Point Walter Recreation and Conference Centre near the Swan River that flows through Perth. Black swans abound here. You know before Europe discovered Australia, people thought that all the swans in the world were white, but when people came to Australia they found there were some who were black.

It can get very hot in Perth in the summer and some of us were apprehensive about that, but the weather was benign for most of the time. Also, the Recreation Centre had a swimming pool for cooling off. It also had an amphitheatre which was an excellent space for performances.



Outgoing chair of Subud Australia, David Ohri in a duo with his wife Louise in the amphitheatre.

Getting together...

Because of the Corona virus this was the first person-to-person Congress we have had since 2020, and we were really looking forward to getting together. Getting together was sufficient reason to be holding a Congress. If nothing else happened, it would have all been worthwhile. But much more did happen

First of all, of course, there was the latihan. We were soaked drenched and surrounded by the latihan morning noon and night. There were also plenary sessions going on practically all the time with reports and presentations both national and international. Sometimes these business sessions are dull but the sessions at this Congress were light and cheerful, full of jokes, quips, wisecracks and gales of laughter.

The most important proposal to come out of the Congress concerned the Subud organisation. A group had been working on looking at the WSA constitution and came up with a proposal which the Congress decided to forward into the process that will sift through and evaluate proposals leading up to the World Congress in 2024.

SUBUD AUSTRALIA

PROPOSALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS CONSTITUTIONAL WORKING PARTY AT THE 2024 KALIMANTAN SUBUD WORLD CONGRESS

1. Reviewing the Democratic and Representative Principles of Our Association

Subud Australia proposes that the national delegates and councillors at the 2024 Kalimantan World Subud Congress review the organizational framework and democratic, representative and consultative principles of our association in line with the guidance of YM Bapak Muhammad Subuh, the founder of our international Subud Association.

In support of this proposal, we present to Congress Subud Australia's 'Review of Bapak's Descriptions of the Organizational Framework and Principles of our Subud Association.' We also present for consideration by the delegates and councillors, a proposed alternative to the current Constitution, a 'Charter of the World Subud Association,' that embraces the organizational framework and principles described by Bapak.

2. Incorporation in a Neutral Country

Subud Australia proposes that the World Subud Association establish an incorporated entity and office of the WSA in a neutral country, so that the way is open throughout the world for our Subud organization to engage in cordial relations with governments and social institutions in every country where Subud is established.

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/WSA-Constitution-Subcommittee-proposals-to-Perth-Congress.pdf>

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Review-of-Bapak's-Descriptions-of-the-Subud-Association.pdf>

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2024-WSA-Charter.pdf>

Finding a balance...

There has been much discussion lately about the organisation largely inspired by a document written by Nahum Harlap, WSA chair, who gave a presentation at the Australian Congress about his “observations and proposals for change”.

This document is divided into two parts. The first part discusses where in the world the WSA should be located, and the second part comes up with some fairly radical suggestions about how relationships between the WSA and the “Wings” should be re-organised. To read Nahum’s document, go to:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Nahum-Harlap-WSA-suggestions.pdf>

He welcomes direct comments: nahum.harlap@subud.org

Four of the Asian Zone international helpers were present at the Congress including Hermina Flynn and Rohmana Friend from Australia who were joined by Sudarmadji and Suryadi from Indonesia. (Hussein Rawlings from New Zealand and Isti da Silva from Indonesia/Portugal were not able to attend the Congress.)

They talked about their experiences as international helpers which included an important meeting last year in the town of Porto in Portugal where they devoted themselves to understanding the meaning of the forthcoming World Congress and how best it should be organised and conducted.

The keynote speaker of the Congress was Rusdi Bustillo who is the head of the Congress Organising Team for the 2024 Congress in Kalimantan. He gave a long and excellent presentation. The main information which emerged is the need to find balance for “one Congress in two places”. The Congress will be based in both Rungan Sari and the nearby capital city of Palangkaraya. There will be accommodation and events held in both places. The details of what has been planned so far are available on the website:

www.subudworldcongress.org

E: office.wcot2024@subud.org

Who is the new chair of Subud Australia?

That is the burning question everyone wants to know the answer to. Well, this time it is someone young, I don’t know exactly how young, but quite young. Younger than usual. Certainly youngish. He is Anthony Tibbs, who is of course descended from that futurologist Hardwin Tibbs and that well-known poet Daphne Alexopoulou. Anthony has a background in education along with languages (Russian) and IT amongst other things and is currently involved in carrying out a survey for a university in Perth.

His partner, and now First Lady of Subud Australia, is Amira who also comes from a notable family, the Bryson-Haynes, who also field a number of representatives in Perth. She is an artist who has previously run her own business.

“ Simply getting together was sufficient reason for holding a Congress, but much more than that happened...”



Rusdi Bustillo, leader of the Congress Organising Team, talked about plans for the World Congress in Kalimantan.

“ The keynote speaker at the Congress was Rusdi Bustillo, head of the World Congress 2024 organising team...”



Anthony Tibbs, the new chair of Subud Australia, with his wife, First Lady, Amira..

There were many other presentations and workshops. Sandra Egege gave a very good presentation about the MSF and there were several workshops dealing with health issues as well as presentations about projects in Kalimantan such as the Soccer Foundation and the Permakultur Project.

There were also activities for the many young people present, including a Youth Olympics involving innovative sports such as the Waterbucket Event. Good for cooling off.

One of the most heartening of all the aspects of the Congress was how many young families were present from the Perth group. This has mostly been the work of the Bustillo family who originated in Columbia but have now spread throughout the world and constantly provide husbands and wives to young Subud members looking for marriage partners.

Many of these young marriages in Perth have at least one partner who is a Bustillo and they are having babies. So, it was wonderful to be in this environment where there were many so many babies and young children present. If you ever doubted that Subud has a future, the babies were there to contradict you.



Stephen Armytage arranged for this drone photo of the Congress.

[And how was it for me personally?](#)

At the end someone shoved a camera in my face asked me what sort of Congress I'd had, and I said, "It was the best time of my whole life. It was the happiest five days of my whole life." And I really meant it.

Lately, at age 80, this has been happening to me a lot. I keep getting these "best ever" experiences. This is the best meal I ever had; this is the best ever deepest conversation of my entire life. And so on and so on and so on.

I had so many beautiful moments, deep experiences, and learned profound lessons about trying to be more of a human being. The differences between the way a tiger behaves, and a human being behaves were made fully clear to me.

So, a great Congress, one to enjoy immediately, but also to put down and let mature in the bottle, Congratulations, especially to Simon Blond who is both the chair of the Perth group and the chief Congress organiser. He assembled a great team as we saw on the closing night. Everything about Congress was simple and clear, things ran really well, and everyone had a good time.

There was great entertainment in the amphitheatre. Of course, we had our superstar Francis Madden performing, but there were many other crowd-pleasing performers.

The drone...

At one point we gathered at the amphitheatre because Stephen Armytage who is one of our national helpers had brought a drone and he wanted to take a photograph of us all. The drone was quite scary darting at us out of the sky in an intimidating way, somewhat like one of those Daleks from Doctor Who and at any moment might start saying, "Exterminate them! Exterminate them!", but fortunately it only took our photo.

Togetherness. That was the theme. We were all together. The several years we have not been able to meet because of the dreaded virus vanished and at last we were able to meet, and it was beautiful. It was a taste of heaven.

Frances Madden performed a concert in the amphitheatre, finishing up with "Somewhere over the Rainbow", her mother's favourite song. This video shows another of her performances of the song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNfx0NmAm2w>



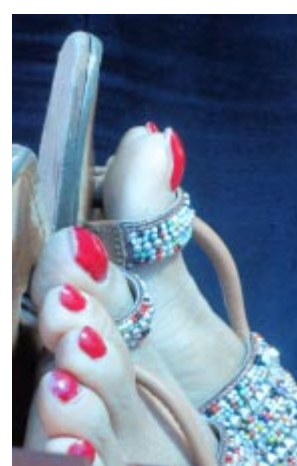
Top: Closing Ceremony. Simon Blond, centre stage, 81 not out, chair of Perth and the Congress organiser, with some of the people who helped him make this Congress happen.

Middle left: At the registration desk.

Middle right: Twinkle toes.

Bottom left: Mursalin New, one of the people who worked on the Australian proposal about the WSA Constitution, hard at work in the dining room with David and Ian from Adelaide.

Bottom right: Youth Olympics. Waterbucket event. For cooling off.



My Colombian Adventure

An excerpt from Ashwin Rajaraman's visit to Colombia in 2022 in which he attended the SDIA AGM and visited other places in the country...

Amanecer, a Subud Centre with a difference

There is something about Amanecer that you can't put a finger on – or maybe I can't put a finger on.

What was it that made this place so unique? Was it the exuberance of the local members and groups who were ever present and who made it a merry go round to remember names and faces?

Was it the expanse of the Subud Centre, stark, bereft of ornamentation but spacious enough and with an atmosphere all its own?

Was it the unimaginable beauty of its natural surroundings and landscape as if from a picture postcard with its magnificent backdrop of pristine mountains?

Perhaps it was all from the cuisine that emanated from the skilled chefs in the on-premises restaurant that was forever and always full, adding to the cheer and smiling faces all around?

Or was it an unseen energy, that seemed to seep into all who came in contact with it or who set foot on its hallowed precincts and propelled them to experience unbelievable latihans?

Or was it simply the abundance of genuine love and affection and extending the hand of sincere friendship that all the members showered on me (and on others as well) again and again?

I don't know but it doesn't matter – Amanecer was a friendly, boisterous, unique, unbelievable centre that shouted Subud from its rooftops.

The hotel nearby a few minutes' walk from the centre was homely and well maintained – quaint with its own pool, horse and dogs and offered bed and breakfast at 20 USD, with cheerful and helpful staff who went out of the way to make my stay comfortable and enjoyable.

I didn't know it at that time, but from a few days later, it offered us, the Board Members, International Helper, SD Nationals who had come from different countries and others who stayed there, a daily chance to meet and exchange notes and forge friendships during a leisurely breakfast every day for days together, something to cherish and to replicate in future.

We were all set, but where was the rest of the gang? They were either at the Centre or in their homes, or on the way or perhaps visiting friends, or still getting over the jet lag in their respective rooms. But they were all there. Including all the Project Leaders, the various members from the various groups of Colombia and the Human Force Camp participants who arrived a day or two later.

“ *The unimaginable beauty of Amanecer's natural surroundings and landscape...* ”



Hedley Bennet (UK KC) in front of Amanecer.



The pristine surroundings of Amanecer.

SDIA AGM – Hybrid, Hyperlocal, Hyperactive

The SDIA Board Meeting over a couple of days set the agenda and tone for the AGM to follow over 5 days. Time differences made the Hybrid meetings with Zoom telecast and live sessions a challenge, but were skillfully handled and deployed barring a couple of unforeseen circumstances.

The business sessions and the testing sessions followed one after another, day after day. Several local members from all parts of Colombia including Amanecer, local and national helpers, project leaders and WSA Deputy Chair and MSF Chair in addition to the SDIA Board and the Human Force Camp participants ensured the halls were always full. The sessions were well attended and participated, and the latihans in the big hall was an added bonus and impetus even for the younger participants.

We co-opted willing National helpers, Kejiwaan Councillors and an International Helper to lead latihans (morning and evening), kejiwaan and testing sessions and one-on-one chats.

We re-elected a current Board Member (Vincent Mount) and inducted a new Board member (Rosanne Favre) through testing.

We found new team members (Margarita Fisco and Isidro Jimenez) to join the Office (Communication) team.

We had several outstanding SD Project presentations (I Protect Me, South Africa; Hijas de la Paz, Colombia; RSD Guelson, Angola; Borneo Football International Foundation, Indonesia; Community Learning Centres for Women and Girls in the DRC, Africa; SD Spain supported Project in Sierra Leone; Fuegos Project in Manabi, Ecuador; Mis Corazones Alegres (MCA), Colombia; Fundacion Amanecer, Colombia; Vivir, Ecuador; YTS, YUM, Indonesia; Tropico, Colombia among others) from leaders who had come from different parts of Colombia, Ecuador and from the other end of the globe, in addition to several more on Zoom from different parts of the world.

We had workshops in person (Listening with Love) and on zoom (The right use of power).

We discussed the Ukraine situation for which SD had raised over 70,000 USD, sending supplies, supporting the needs of communities and refugees leaving Ukraine and trauma care and counselling / support to caregivers to help children affected by the war, among others.

We had several SD Nationals from around the globe who were physically present and several others who attended every business session via zoom irrespective of the time zones they were in.



The Human Force camp dovetailed into the AGM.



The full SDIA Board at Amanecer.



Evan chairing a Hybrid session at the AGM.

It was hectic, at times chaotic but there was a sense of purpose and meaning to the deliberations with a focus on what we can do, where we are and with what we have.

[Human Force Camp, Fun, Frolic and a real \(river\) Adventure in Los Nevados](#)

The Human Force Camp run primarily by Solen Lees and Rosanne Favre had about 20 participants from different parts of the world and they infused the necessary youthful energy not only in the proceedings of the AGM, but it also rubbed on to us, those who were present and the atmosphere in general.

The objective of the HFC, run over 10 days, in addition to its own agenda and list of priorities (like English language teaching workshops in the local school, Mi Pedacito de Cielo or painting a wall mural for example) was to support the Fundación Amanecer in Phase One of its Environmental Plan.

This particular camp project included the construction of a footbridge for a group of endangered night monkeys (Salto de Fe Project), the planting of more than 100 native trees to create a biological corridor and the photographic mapping of the area for use in future phases of the project.

Their presence and vitality helped imbue the spirit of adventure in us and we took off, about 40 of us in all including the HFC participants, first for half a day, to soak ourselves in the hot thermal springs of Santa Rosa and for a full day trip at Salento / Cocora. Some of us went further, climbing and trekking into and through the Los Nevados National Nature Park to see the buffy helmet crest hummingbirds, an endemic species, in a special sanctuary for them.

[And that is where my real Colombian adventure began...](#)

The first of many on this trip, which happened right then and there. We climbed and hiked – four of us – from about 1000 feet to almost 4500 feet, crossing about 13 makeshift (rope) river bridges on the way.

And I fell from one of them, a very slippery, inclined plank-made rope bridge, right into the Magdalena / Cauca River running below from about 10 feet above, with rocks around me, backpack, camera in hand and all and was in chest deep water for a full 5 minutes before Antony, a HFC Participant, who was with us, pulled me out of the river to safety.

Luckily the current was not strong, and I could hold on to whatever foliage was at hand and it was a miracle that there was not a single scratch on my body, and nothing was broken, neither my ribs nor my camera and lens, nor even my spectacles.

We didn't give up though I was shaken; Elsa, from SD Germany and Antony carried part of my load and Nurul, SD France gave me her spare leggings to wear since I was completely drenched and soaked in water including my shoes. We climbed higher and higher for another couple of hours at least, chatting and giggling and thanking our stars that nothing untoward happened, though we were deep in Puma territory – yes, you read that right.

We reached the top, met the hummingbirds, sang with them, had coffee and snacks, rested, and started the climb down again through dense forests and tricky detours to cross the river, again the same 13 rope bridges and reached back tired, but satiated and a day well spent in the company of brotherly and sisterly love – that day taught me how precious Subud can be...

“ *I fell from a very slippery, inclined plank-made rope bridge, right into the Magdalena/Cauca River...* ”



The pristine beauty of Cocoro / Salento.

To read Ashwin's complete story of his travels in Colombia, click here:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Colombian-Adventure.pdf>

To see video of humming birds click here: <https://youtu.be/xmS-k1nNI6o>



The Human Force Camp Participants at Cocoro.



One of the 13 bridges - no this was not the one!



The four musketeers who trekked in NP.



Queried the Hummingbird: You came all the way to see me? ●

MSF Sale of the Gran Salon to GHFP

Elaina Dodson writes...

The Muhammad Subud Foundation (MSF) is pleased to announce that it has sold the Gran Salon of Amanecer in Colombia to the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace (GHFP). The sale was completed in October, 2022, for a price of USD 240,000.

The Gran Salon was built in the early 1990s with support from Subud members around the world. Its unique design was created by the gifted Subud architect Aaron Muchtar Martins as the centerpiece of the new Amanecer community, with hope that it could exist and grow into a magnificent international Subud center.

Amanecer and the Gran Salon were built for the 1993 World Congress. Through the decades, Amanecer has been host to many international, national, and local Subud gatherings, and the Gran Salon has served as a primary Latihan location for the Amanecer community. Additionally, it has been the venue for many meetings of local organizations and businesses, as well as various social programs.

MSF acquired ownership of the Gran Salon in the year 2001, holding it on behalf of the World Subud Association, with Subud Colombia responsible for day-to-day management. However, in recent years, repair and maintenance costs grew without the benefit of enough income to compensate for the expenses. MSF has borne the cost of repairs, taxes, and other legal requirements of maintaining the Gran Salon, while not having the capacity to run and sustain its viability on a day-to-day basis.

Garrett Thomson, CEO and Research Director of the GHFP, says the Foundation intends to develop it into a key location for Subud-centered social and educational activities. These projects will be run by a new NGO, Eduser, which is a collaboration between the GHFP and Susila Dharma International.



The GHFP has set aside USD 50,000 for the repair of the Hall and for the working capital of Eduser. The GHFP has already initiated and run educational projects in the region including a residential program with young women from deprived areas, and the introduction of Human Centered Education methodology within local state schools.

The Muhammad Subuh Foundation is pleased at the outcome of the lengthy negotiations. The process had to encompass the needs and priorities of both Foundations as well as those of the Amanecer community, and ensure compliance with the legal requirements of both Colombia and the United Kingdom, where GHFP is registered.

The MSF team would like to thank Luqman Rivera and Carlota Barney for their work in Colombia to facilitate the sale process, and Subud Colombia and especially the Subud Amanecer community for participating in a collaborative and productive way.

Both MSF and GHFP hope that with the sale, the Gran Salon will now have a long and sustainable life, serving the needs and aspirations of Subud as members strive to bring the Latihan and its fruits into practice in the world and the community in which they live.

MSF would like to thank the World Subud Council for its constant support and encouragement over the past three years, and the board and negotiating team of the Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for their faithful dedication to finding the best way forward for Subud. ●

“ *The Foundation intends to develop it into a key location for Subud-centered social and educational activities...* ”

Issues for Discussion

The editor introduces a discussion about significant issues coming up in the Subud organization... With our next world Congress coming up in 2024, many people are already beginning to think about issues pertaining to our organisation, which might come up at Congress.

This was evident at the recent Subud Australia Congress where WSA chair, Nahum Harlap, gave a presentation about the document he has recently distributed entitled "Observations and Proposals". I would like to present a response to Nahum's document in the spirit of opening up debate.

Observations: The document is in two parts. The first part discusses where the WSA should legally be located. At present it is in the United States and Nahum argues in his document that it should be moved to another, more neutral country. He argues this very cogently and other friends of mine who take an interest in such matters tell me that he has got it right. But before making a final conclusion about this one, I would like to hear an equally well-argued case from someone who thinks it should stay in Washington.

I spoke to someone well-informed who said they would like to present the case for Washington, and I hope that they will.

The second part of the document is mostly concerned with internal organisational matters including the "wings". The first thing Nahum does is explain what a confusing term this is when so many diverse entities are all collected together under the one name.

He points out the very different relationships which the various bodies designated as wings have with the WSA. For instance, the relationship that SICA has to WSA is quite different from the relationship that SIHA has. A lot of tidying up should be done here. He also contextualises his discussion of wings with comments on the 10 Aims of the Subud organisation.

However, the most urgent and contentious issue is the relationship between Susila Dharma International and the WSA. Nahum certainly did not invent this difference of opinion. It has been around for a long time and Nahum argues that while Susila Dharma is the biggest and most successful of the wings, it does not have a strong enough connection to the World Subud Association.

From February 6-15 a meeting of the World Subud Council will be held in Rungan Sari, and I suspect that the

“ *With our next World Congress coming, many people are already thinking about issues in our organisation...* ” >

relationship between WSA and Susila Dharma will be one of the most important items on the agenda and hopefully will lead to a development with which both sides can agree.

In the next articles we present some excerpts from Nahum's document, followed by a response from Virginia Thomas...

From "Observations and Proposals"

WSA Chair Nahum Harlap has produced a document entitled "Observations and Proposals" in which he looked at areas of the Subud organisation where he believes that change is necessary. We begin with his comments on the 10 aims of the Subud Association...



10 AIMS OF THE SUBUD ASSOCIATION

1. To facilitate the worship of Almighty God through the Latihan Kejiwaan of Subud and to provide for the other needs of the Subud membership.
2. To preserve the practice of the Latihan Kejiwaan so that it will remain available to people everywhere in the form in which it was originally practiced under the guidance of Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo.
3. To protect the good reputation of Subud.
4. To encourage peace, harmony and understanding between peoples regardless of their ethnic origin or religion.
5. To provide educational and other facilities for the development of the full potential of human beings.
6. To relieve poverty and deprivation.
7. To encourage the development of a healthy and harmonious inner and outer environment for the well-being of mankind.
8. To encourage cultural activities and the values which enliven and enrich the human spirit.
9. To encourage the entrepreneurial spirit which enables people to express their true talents and develop the capacity to improve the quality of their lives.
10. To make available information concerning the Latihan Kejiwaan of Subud.

First let's separate these in two;

Aims 1,2,3,and 10 are generally about the latihan. Aims 4-9 are, in general, about putting it into practice. Among 4-9 we may notice that 4,7,8,9 are 'to encourage...' while 5 and 6 are 'to provide' and 'to relieve'.

Herein lies one concern I have - 'encourage' means that the WSA supports certain activities by others - Subud groups, Nationals and the general public, whereas 'provide' and 'relieve' suggests the WSA takes it upon itself to act.

It is my contention that the WSA is neither intended nor is it equipped to execute 5&6, and SDIA, to which this is mostly delegated, shouldn't take it upon themselves, either. Rather, the role of the WSA (or, in these matters, SDIA) is to support and coordinate members' initiatives.

The importance of this distinction is with where does the ultimate responsibility lie, and the resources to take on this responsibility? Do members understand that it is up to them to initiate and act, or they expect the initiative to come from the organisation?

It is possible, though I was unable to ascertain this conjecture, that the chosen phrasing was made in order to facilitate the charitable status of the WSA.

If that is the case, and if this is necessary, we may be stuck with this, but must clarify to ourselves the expectation that it is ultimately the members who are tasked with these aims, because in truth, WSA and SDIA aren't really equipped to do more than support and coordinate - even if at times it appears that SDIA wishes to take upon itself putting the latihan into practice on behalf of members.

However, if this phrasing is NOT required for our charitable status. I would strongly recommend we change the aims to (a) and (b) or similar, as at the top of this chapter.

Another, related concern, is the current list of 10 aims encourages members to identify with some elements, closer to their hearts, rather than others, and in that, this list of aims makes it hard to see their underlying unity.

It may even be argued that creating independent affiliates and other so-called 'wings' was a mistake that has exacerbated this trend away from unity - but I doubt this can be reversed - partly due to the unfortunate tribal identification of members with what is dear to them, and partly, because the affiliates (SDIA and SICA) want to benefit from advantages that an independent status confers upon them - in particular, the ability to raise funds from external sources that may not be willing to support them if their association with a spiritual organisation was considered to limit their independence.

An unfortunate outcome of this thinking is that the current SDIA Articles of Association have no mention of Subud or the latihan. This has been a sore point with some members.

Here, again, just as in the case of associating in an on-shore jurisdiction, we are confronted with the way in which material considerations interfere with the ideal way for us to operate.

Ideally, we all develop and grow, through the latihan, in the way we operate on the material, feeling and understanding aspects of our being. From the perspective of our individual unity as well as the unity of all humankind, parcelling out certain functions to independent organisations doesn't reflect the ideal.

Both in the case of onshore incorporation in the US and in creating the independent affiliates we have contorted ourselves to benefit from superior tax treatment in a way that doesn't reflect our essence.

Later in his document, Nahum talks about Susila Dharma in particular...

The role of SDIA is to coordinate and support activities that primarily put our feeling nature into practice through charitable, caring, educational activities, etc.

I believe that the *raison d'être* of SDIA is about doing charity 'right' than about doing charity per se.

I am more concerned with making use of the opportunity to be guided correctly than to be a channel for transfer of money - the former is what we are about, the latter is the purview of any of the thousands of charities out there. In my mind, SDIA is therefore not there to simply do charity, but to do it right - it is an important difference in focus.

Practically, what it means is that testing is something we want to use extensively. Other than testing, it is yet again, the process of *Zat, Sifat, Asma, and Af'al*, observe and reflect. It is not enough to assume that just because we do the latihan we are infallible and our project would be blessed (if only...)

It is by testing together and looking sincerely, and without bias, for the shared understanding of our receiving that we try to get closer to the truth, and the more of us that are there to test, and the deeper our surrender, the more likely we are to get close to where we should be.

It means that, for example, at the SDIA AGM, rather than just accepting project reports there is also a *kejiwaan* portion where those present try to get a sense through testing what goes right and what needs to improve in each project. It is all about following the guidance, not about doing charity or starting an enterprise - these are just the arenas where we practise.

The more we focus on the 'outer' aspects of projects, the more we gravitate towards the role of just another global charity - and in my understanding, that's not what SDIA is for - because there is no shortage of excellent global charities out there.

The WSA is intended to support and coordinate members and groups that wish to practice the guidance, whether through an enterprise, a charity, etc., and the focus is on how do we do things in the right way.

For me, member projects that do not attend a meeting where the project leaders participate in testing with the SDIA board and with helpers (that it is the role of the WSA to provide, and we can certainly do a better job of it) - such projects raise a question why are they at all members of SDIA.

SDIA is not just a platform to help them with governance and fund raising - but in giving them the opportunity to seek the guidance of the latihan. It is why, for example, I never felt comfortable with member projects where the majority of the individual project leaders are not doing the latihan at all.

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Nahum-Harlap-WSA-suggestions.pdf>

He welcomes direct comments: nahum.harlap@subud.org

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What Is Intended for Subud in this World?

A personal response to the proposals from the WSA Chair by Virginia Hamida Thomas, Quebec...

First, let me start by thanking the current WSA Chair for putting to our World Subud Association and our spiritual community some very fundamental questions about who we are and what is the mission of Subud in this world.

While it is difficult to respond comprehensively to Nahum's complex and far-reaching proposals, it is possible for us to take a step back and ask ourselves – what is the mission of Subud in this world? And how should we organize ourselves to best contribute to this?

Growing up in a Subud family, Bapak's talks were in the air – every day, every night. For our family, these talks deepened our world view as children and later our work as adults. It was clear to us that Bapak's reality was quite different from our own: born in Central Java at the turn of the last century and growing up in a developing country under colonial rule, Bapak's talks reflect his awareness of how poverty, the lack access to education, rights and healthcare held back individual and social development.

As one follows the evolution of Bapak's talks, the blessing and freedom we receive through the latihan also come with a responsibility to serve and address deep social inequalities that continue to hold humanity back. Bapak's talks are full of references to the importance of human development and social justice, of correcting the things that are unjust, unequal and unfair in this world; of Subud as a force for change – not only in our own individual lives, but as a collective.

According to Bapak, Subud should and would be known in this world as a movement dedicated to serving humanity and working for social justice, as manifested in the 10 Aims. One day, according to Bapak, governments and leaders would turn to us as Subud members to help solve the world's most intractable problems.

Fast forward to today, and some of us are asking if the 10 Aims of the World Subud Association (see preceding article by Nahum) – which were designed to point us in the direction of solving some of these intractable problems, are still relevant? Or are they too far beyond our capacity? What might be Bapak's reply? Might it be something like – with a laugh – surrender more deeply, and follow, follow, follow. Have courage. Let the power of Almighty God guide you to the solutions.

We may be weak, and few in number, but the power of Almighty God is infinite. He might hold up examples of Subud members who, through their latihan, have received amazing and unique contributions to making the world a better place, whether on local, national or global levels, and have put these into practice in the form of projects, programmes and organisations that improve lives, livelihoods, protection of the environment, and access to much needed services for large numbers of people.

Are the 10 aims still relevant?

Maybe we can each test and feel for ourselves if the 10 Aims of Subud are still relevant today, and how we as Subud and Subud members, working through the wings and affiliate organisations, can bring a unique and special Subud contribution to achieving them.

Some years ago, after working as a development professional and management consultant with large international organisations, I became Executive Director of Susila Dharma International, and it has amazed me to witness how many Subud members, working together, with few resources except for their receiving and courage, have made miracles come to pass.

It has also saddened me to see that some of us have become so comfortable materially and protected by our orderly societies that we can hardly imagine the day-to-day challenges faced by our brothers and sisters in developing countries just to attend a group Latihan, let alone feed their



“ According to Bapak, Subud should be known in this world as a movement dedicated to serving humanity and working for social justice, as manifested in the 10 aims...” ”

families and educate their children. Bapak would not have allowed us to forget such glaring and unjust contrasts

Many of the things that Bapak described in his talks have, and are becoming, a reality: the construction of health and hospital centers, and the practice of improved healing methods that are saving lives where before people were dying of preventable illnesses; programmes for improving children's nutrition and development and the construction of schools; the introduction of new and innovative approaches to formal and informal education; the introduction of new approaches for livelihood generation in ways that support, rather than destroy, the natural environment.

We are witnessing – just as Bapak told us they would – governments and international organisations asking advice of Subud members who are helping to influence new and improved policies and programmes in many countries and at the global level. Subud members working together in the Susila Dharma international association and network, across cultures and languages, in a co-ordinated, effective and respectful manner to address some important societal and planetary challenges is living proof of what Bapak asked of us, yet there is still so much more to do.

Why have we come together?

The WSA Chair says that those of us working in the “Wings” have come together for “tax and funding benefits” and that they represent a form of “tribalism” that disrupts the unity of Subud. SDIA did not come together around tax benefits and funding benefits or a sense of tribalism.

It was born of the deep commitment of Subud members to work together to help others, to start initiatives that were helpful to humanity, and the desire of Subud members around the world to support these efforts with what they had: their time, their skills, their contacts, and yes, a bit of money: Subud members giving of themselves because this is what they are called to.

In the early days, SD projects and SD national committees existed before SDIA as an international body, and these active Subud members decided that they needed an international specialized coordination body to support their efforts – to facilitate the sharing of latihan, professional experiences, information, contacts, methodologies, services, research, technical and financial capacities and mutual support.

Our work in Susila Dharma stems from the latihan, but there is much more that is needed in support beyond a shared latihan experience, in the form of multi-disciplinary collaboration and technical support to successfully seed-fund and grow effective and impactful SD projects. If SDIA were ‘abolished’ at the international level, as proposed, it would not be long before another, very similar entity would be recreated to meet this need.

“ *As Ibu Rahayu has told us on various occasions, Susila Dharma can go where Subud cannot ...* ”

WSA and SDIA...

Does the creation of separate legal entities for the purpose of achieving WSA's broad and far-reaching Aims represent a “separation” from the rest of the organization and a lack of unity? Those of us involved in SD are first and foremost Subud members with a strong sense of unity and a shared commitment to the Latihan, WSA and its 10 aims.

But as Ibu Rahayu has told us on various occasions: “Susila Dharma can go where Subud cannot” meaning that SD, as a separate legal entity with its specific development and humanitarian mission, can in some cases, open the way for the Latihan as a spiritual practice. And we have witnessed how SD has opened the way for the practice of the Latihan where governments or local communities are deeply suspicious of a movement that seems strange, foreign, dangerous or cult-like.

One example is Cuba, where Subud and the practice of coming together for latihan was illegal. Over time, Susila Dharma's support for local community initiatives and post-hurricane reconstruction efforts led to a better understanding by authorities that Subud was not a hostile foreign actor, but could be a helpful support. Subud is now legal in Cuba, and members are free to meet and practice the latihan without fear of punishment or imprisonment, thanks to the efforts of the SD Network.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Subud and the latihan were considered in some communities as a form of “witchcraft” or devil worship. The work of SD Congo, as a development organi- >

zation, to engage with and support local communities to improve local health and educational services led to a recognition that Subud was made of good people doing good and helpful things, like building hospitals and schools. Today SD Congo and Subud DRC enjoy the respect and admiration of local communities and government authorities alike, and the Subud community is growing once again.

But the work of the wings can be quite technical and involve taking risks – including financial, technical and management risks that may be less appropriate for Subud as a spiritual organisation. Hence the rationale for separate legal incorporation of both SDIA and SICA, and maybe one day, SESI, if the content of its work develops to the point that such a separation would be considered necessary and beneficial.

After many years in Subud and working with Susila Dharma, my view is that while we are small, flawed and limited as individuals, by working together as Subud professionals, as Bapak asked us to do, we are achieving miracles and addressing the intractable problems of poverty and deep social and economic inequalities facing much of humanity.

Helping each other in a shared commitment to a higher purpose which Bapak guided us to, we can find a stronger basis for unity. Respecting each other in our different roles and mandates, including understanding where legal autonomy is an important protection for all parties, our job is first to know ourselves, recognize our skills and talents, and put these to work for our shared humanity. I am pleased to see that SDIA and the SD Network have brought much respect and recognition to Subud as a spiritual movement.

Through Subud we are able to practice the latihan and find our inner guidance; Subud in turn needs its wings at the local, national and international levels to show the world who we are and manifest the higher purpose that Subud represents for the world. ●

The Big Freeze

Lucien Hinkle writes from the USA about the blizzard that hit that country around Christmas/New Year...

A week ago, last Friday, we got a big snowstorm of about 20 inches of heavy wet snow. This downed some trees and we, along with many others, lost our power that evening. Next day the man who is supposed to do our snow plowing didn't show up because, "I had 2 trucks down."

So, I had to go out and push all that snow with my tractor's bucket loader, an exhausting 3-hour job, as pushing snow with a tractor is much more difficult than with a regular snowplow.

We heat mostly with a wood stove, have a gas cooking stove, can use battery powered lights, and since it was fairly warm (around 30 degrees Fahrenheit, just below freezing in the afternoon) I was able to start the tractor, a diesel engine, and run our generator at night until we went to bed. We got our power back on Monday afternoon.

Last Thursday into Friday we got another storm with high winds, snow and rain, and relatively high temperatures. The temperature was supposed to plummet Friday evening, so again I had to go out and scrape several inches of slush off everywhere with the tractor before it could freeze and turn into a skating rink, another gruelling 2-hour job.

Luckily we have not lost power from that storm, since the previous heavy snow took down all the trees that might come down in a high wind. If the temperature goes too low it becomes impossible to start the diesel tractor, unless I can start a gas generator to warm the tractor through a block heater!

As for the cold winter blast that has engulfed the center of the country, we have only had lows of about zero at night but is now warming up a bit. Not only do we Americans still use feet and inches, but we also still use Fahrenheit instead of Celsius! So, freezing for us is 32 degrees instead of zero C, and zero F is -17.8 C.

The upshot of all this is I came down with a low-grade fever and some body aches, but fortunately it's not Covid, and I am better today.

Last winter was very cold also and we went through a lot of firewood, so I ordered more firewood >



than usual for this winter. I also usually put up some firewood myself, but this year fell behind.

At the rate we are going I'm not sure we will have enough, but we also have an oil-fired furnace, and we heat our hot water with an oil-fired heater. I just have to be careful to save enough wood for another power outage. Gee, I wonder...what ever happened to global warming? Sorry you Believers, but I couldn't resist.

Zone 3 Magazine 'Projects & Properties' Issue 17 – December 2022

Ruth Taylor, Zone 3 Secretary, writes...

Dear Zone 3 delegates and interested members,

We are delighted to share with you the winter issue of the Zone 3 Magazine 'PROJECTS & PROPERTIES'. Please distribute to groups and members in your countries.

English and Spanish versions are available. French is to follow in the coming days. Big thanks to Paloma de la Viña and Mahrus Harnadi for translations, and to everyone who contributed wonderful content.

This ASSISI special issue reflects on and shares some of the joyous moments, key outcomes, and participants' experiences from the joint Z3&4 gathering. May this bring back happy memories for those that were there, and pass on some of the special energy felt to those who could not join us in person. This issue includes:

- [Assisi Reflections](#)... from the Zone 3 and 4 Representatives, and contributions from some of the Z3&4 Kejiwaan Councillors, Committee Councillors, youth participants and MSF

- [Subud Ukraine](#)... KC Elena Gurina reports on Subud Ukraine members' experiences in Assisi, and we also share art and poetry from Ukraine

- [The Wings in Action](#)... The Wings share about their time in Assisi, and you can also read about some of the gathering activities - working with clay, climate conversations and Livingston Armytage's photographic exploration of homelessness, the subject of his latest book

- [Remembering](#)... tributes to recently departed members Cees Heemskerk, Michael Heaslip and Lienhard Berger

Enjoy a great read, and a visual treat! May we also take this opportunity to wish you many blessings for the new year ahead. To download the magazine click here:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Projects-Properties.pdf>

Life in this World

Sebastian Paemen writes...

This is the view of life in this world, which I have gathered from both Bapak and the Qur'an:

God has created many worlds and this particular world we live in is a realm where souls are being tested. Therefore, we experience happiness and suffering; there are tests in both. Life always goes up and down.

God put angels and devils in this world, good and bad, high and low. Suffering is unavoidable; this world was never meant to be a place of eternal peace and happiness. That's the next world, which is called heaven.

This is why there will always be wars, injustice and disturbance in this world; it's supposed to be there. In this is a tremendous opportunity for us to learn, grow and surrender to God.

So often the wisest among us are those who have suffered most - It's this growth we take with us to the next world, not material success or fame.

Of course people have the right to believe otherwise; I am at peace with this view.

Dumbfounded

A father's journey into Subud by Adam Hammer...

Six years ago, I was working in a one teacher school, in a remote outback town in Queensland, Australia. My wife was home schooling our two school age children and I was struggling to be the father and teacher I wanted to be.

One day my teenage son unexpectedly challenged my convictions regarding God. Initially, I was dumfounded. I then felt terrified I had misled him and failed him as a father. I wanted to respond honestly and truly to him – yet found I couldn't. Instead, I became angry and incredulous.

Given my reaction, it became obvious to me that, despite practicing the Latihan and being in Subud for 20 years, I didn't really believe in God, nor really understood what it meant to do so. My lack of faith and conviction troubled me greatly. I wanted to know the truth. I wanted to be a good father and live a good life, yet due to hidden past traumas, had a deep mistrust of society, religion and authority figures – including Bapak.

In response to my soul's yearning, one evening as I went to sleep, a blue spirit light appeared in my mind's eye. Desperate for answers, I surrendered to it and followed its guidance.

For 3 years this light guided me through a myriad of dimensions within my soul. It showed me the satanic and spiritual realms on earth, the vast heavenly realms of our solar system and galaxy; and the wider mysteries of our universe, along with the various deities that governed them.

As I travelled within my soul to these places, I would have to pass through 'spiritual customs' like at an international airport and declare my 'inner baggage'. Sometimes these declarations were very confronting and painful. On entry I was required at times to do some work. In return I received payment via various blessings, some of which were very pleasant and sublime.

At the beginning of this period of spiritual revelation, I was drawn to read about different religions and was shown how different cultures worshipped God. Bapak's spirit also joined me one morning and performed some tasks on my soul, and the thoughts 'you are now one with the spirit and organisation of Subud' wafted through my mind.

He then accompanied me for 3 mornings at dawn as I walked around the quiet streets of the outback town where I was living. His visit had a profound effect on me. I had strong desire to care for Subud, the Latihan, the wings and our members. I keenly felt the spirit of Subud and the needs of our members, yet didn't yet have the capacity to be of service.

This was a very painful reality check for me. I had to retreat back into my home, family and work to heal and grow stronger within myself. My spiritual journeys, which often lasted most of the night had left me very vulnerable during the day.

As a consequence, I was extremely sensitive to the wrong doings of myself and others, yet didn't have the character nor skills to deal with my and our collective fear, pain and delusion. The ongoing revelation of our human flaws, and at times damning responses of those around me, was humiliating, yet at the same time grounding and sobering as to the current state of my Self, Subud and the World.

For the next 3 years, my spiritual experiences were primarily energetic and worldly in nature. My previous journeys appeared to have created a pathway for potent seeds of divine power to enter into my soul. The first of these seeds, or balls of energy, entered the crown of my head one evening just before bed. I thought I might pass out, as the intensity of the vibration was extreme.

More recently, three more of these balls of energy entered my soul via my gut, heart and loins. They, thankfully, entered when I was in a semi-conscious state – so the impact was not so overwhelming.

After entering my soul, these seeds of power gradually integrated into my life and have now become constant companions. The move up and down my inner-feeling like a vibrant CAT scan and are particularly active between 3-7 am in the morning.

They are very palpable, sometimes they feel like a deep soft hum like an engine deep in the ocean, sometimes they surface and burn like a holy flame on the altar of my solar plexus.

Over the years, as these seeds of vibration passed through my heart, mind and lower forces they have awakened and cleaned them – releasing repressed pain, desire, passion, trauma, fear, delusions and emotions along the way.

As a result of these nightly bouts of purification, I have needed to learn new ways of relating and >

*I wanted to know
the truth. I wanted
to be a good
father, and live a
good life...*

being in the world. I had to seek the support of trusted counsellors, helpers, educators, therapists, Subud friends and colleagues to advise, test and learn how best to surrender to these experiences, and communicate and work harmoniously in the world.

An unexpected outcome of this learning has been the development of a course in emotional intelligence, self-actualisation and humane-ecological leadership called The Global Wellbeing Compass. The course evolved over the last 5 years, with the help of a few Subud members, family and friends and is entering its final year of development.

In terms of answering my initial prayer 6 years ago, concerning wanting to know about the truth about God, humanity and living a good life in this world - while I've been repeatedly shocked and awed by God's answer and response in the realms of my soul, I've been waiting for some genuine proof in the world before sharing too much of my story with others.

Amazingly, some of these worldly proofs are now becoming self-evident. Against all odds, I have begun to witness miraculous moments of redemption, good will and humanity in all areas of my life including my home, work and community. These experiences are giving me a new hope in the reality of God's power and grace and conviction in true nature of the Latihan and of Subud.

My son is now 22, and is close to leaving home (I think!). I'm wondering - having entered my seventh year of this extraordinary journey of sleepless nights, multi-dimensional travel and potent vibrational experiences - What do I now have to offer him by way of faith and conviction? Incredibly, as I try to finish this article, I realise I still don't truly believe in God... nor do I truly understand why it felt so important for me and my children to share this belief.

I'm sure my angels and all the countless beings who have helped orchestrate my incredible journeys thus far are wondering WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON!? WHAT IS IT GOING TO TAKE!? I guess God only knows. Meanwhile, I am grateful for everyone's patience, as I slowly learn my lessons, and now suspect there's still some unanswered questions I've been too afraid to ask.

Illustrations by Adam Hammer of his experiences...

The Fiery Realms

There were many times during my period of soul questing, that I was overcome by a need to stop what I was doing during the day and surrender to an inner receiving.

These inner-receivings required me to close my eyes and allow a vision to arise. The visions often revealed beings in other realms performing some kind of task which appeared to be of benefit to humanity.

One of the first day-time visions I witnessed was of a spiritual entity riding a dragon like creature. While sitting astride on his back, he appeared to be attempting to cool or manage an orb of intense fire that was bubbling and boiling ferociously.

My intuition suggested that this being belonged to one of the lower heavenly realms, which was greatly influenced by humanity's current consumerist society.



Spiritual Nightclub of the Soul

One morning, I saw a queue of souls all passing towards a large holding bay area. The waiting area looked like some kind of spiritual nightclub, except no one was dancing. There appeared to be a heavenly DJ looking down upon the dance floor.

Then, to add to the groove, incandescent blue searchlights roamed the dance floor from above. It seemed these strobe lights were looking for souls that would best fit a new incarnation.

All the souls appeared to be unconscious, except for the DJ. They moved as if on a conveyer belt, similar to moving walkways at airports.



The main difference being that these heavenly conveyer belts were moving souls about at incomprehensible speeds.

I wondered if at their death, these souls did not have enough faith, or were carrying too much fear and pain, to pass consciously into the heavenly realms, and so were put to sleep in preparation for the next journey? ●

The Passing of Rita

Ismail Fido writes...

I must say 2022 appears to have been a momentous year for just about everyone. Wars and rumours of war; Covid; the continual wrangling over global warming and various civil unrest are amongst the hot issues.

In my little corner of Brisbane perhaps the most important event for me was my wife Rita's sudden death from a heart attack in her nursing home after a long and losing battle with Alzheimer's.

Rita was only 65 and had just returned to her nursing home from hospital. She was in the final stages of Alzheimer's and the doctors at the hospital were trying to tell me very kindly that the end was near.

I suppose I had slipped into the role of holding on to the end, as so many of my ancestors did in long forgotten battles and hardship postings in the days of the British Empire.

It was a forlorn struggle, just like holding on to the Empire. There is a wonderful Latin phrase: "*Sic transit gloria mundi*" (So passes the glory of the world) and so it was.

I was utterly exhausted. "Burnt out" sums it up.

I was not up to a big funeral, so I opted for a private cremation with a clergyman saying some prayers before the cremation.

Rita's ashes were returned to me in a beautiful blue urn with a bright golden butterfly on it. Fittingly, it was hand crafted in India where they have a long tradition of cremation and memorials.

The word "India" makes me think of the 2022 Zone 3 and 4 meeting in Assisi, which attracted visitors from all over the world, (see in the December 2022 issue of *Subud Voice*).

Even though it is almost 800 years since St Francis died, Assisi is still impregnated with his presence and those of other Franciscan saints buried there.

The Poverello could probably be the patron saint of many things. To me the most important of these would be World Peace, because he actually went to see the Sultan to try to bring an end to the dreadful Fifth Crusade in Egypt. The Sultan treated him with marked honour and he returned safely from this journey. St Francis also spoke of and embraced Brother Death when his time came at a relatively early age. Rita was 65, which is somewhat below the average age that women die in Australia.

I think she knew it was the time for her to go, because I saw her the day before she died and she looked radiant, smiled and said, "I love you," quite clearly. The Alzheimer's had badly affected her speech, so I was glad she said that.

Rita and I had been married for 35 years when she died. It was a second marriage for both of us. There were no children, although I do have three from my previous marriage.

We had our ups and downs. It was a real marriage. That wonderful US Civil War ballad "Lorena" sums it up far better than I could.

The years creep slowly by, Lorena
The snow is on the grass again
The sun's low down the sky, Lorena
The frost gleams where the flowers have been
But my heart beats on as warmly now
As when the summer days were nigh
The sun can never dip so low
Or down affection's cloudless sky
By John Hartford



LORENA - Michael Martin Murphey, Jed Marum and Friends.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNKH0awd3G4>

Memories of Harlinah

Haryanti Stuart writes...

On the few occasions I was able to visit Cilandak, I helped Harlinah in the archives. The work was important, but just how important I understood more and more from working with her. After working together, we shared a cup of tea, often joined by her friend and neighbour in the fourplex block of units in which she lived, Roseanna Sawrey Cookson.

They were good times: fun, informative, laced with stories of Harlinah's time working in the bank Bapak had established and at the Widjojo Centre, of her early years in Egypt and her years at boarding school in England. I remember how shocked she was that the girls told the truth!

"I thought they were mad," she said.

Living in Egypt, playing with the local children and doing things her more traditional parents would definitely have disapproved, it made common sense. After all, if she'd told the truth she'd have got into trouble. Her Father was Shipping Manager for the Suez Canal and had a position to uphold. He would have been horrified at some of her antics!

Decades later, sometime in early 2000, Harlinah moved to Canberra, and began writing what she hoped would become three volumes of the History of Subud, and then, hopefully, her autobiography. While still in Cilandak, Harlinah had written *Subud is a Way of Life*, published in 1990. She stayed with me for four months, and cemented a friendship, which I treasure. But when I read in Subud Voice Harris Smart commenting that Harlinah could hear our thoughts, I shudder! She shared more of her stories about working for Bapak and joined me as I drove her round Canberra and beyond.

In 2003, I moved to Brecon in Wales, and in 2007, Harlinah came to England for the fiftieth Anniversary of the arrival of Subud. I went too, and afterwards we drove around Britain together. It was the first holiday she'd had for years.

As an historian, writing the history of Subud, Harlinah was always working at Subud gatherings: interviewing older members, telling stories from the archives and the twenty years she had worked in Cilandak for Bapak, explaining the role Subud archives play in preserving Subud's history, from its beginnings in Java to the huge influx of Gurdjieff members at Coombe Springs in England and then to almost every country in the world.

I was looking forward to a trip that took me to some of Harlinah's favourite places, as well as visiting some that were important to her family. Afterwards, she stayed with me at Ty'r Wal – the house on the wall (then the remains of the old medieval town wall that surrounded Brecon and overlooked the River Usk).

She stopped in her tracks once, when we were visiting the ruins of a famous church. "Murder was committed in this place," she said. "I can see it. It was brutal."

When Harlinah died at the end of last year, we were able to have a last conversation. Even then, she was her wonderful self. My eternal thanks to Amalijah Thompson who had kept in touch throughout Harlinah's time at the palliative care hospice and made it possible. ●



“ As an historian, writing the history of Subud, Harlinah was always working at Subud gatherings...”

The Passing of Ardilah Hayes

Mufrida Hayes writes...

Our mum Ardilah Hayes passed at the end of July (27th) this year. Apologies it has taken so long to send this message to the Subud community.

She suffered for a long time with a debilitating blood disease MDS (Myelodysplastic Syndrome) for which she required frequent blood transfusions).

She made a personal choice to stop these transfusions after falling and breaking her hip and >

spent over 6 weeks in palliative care in Melbourne.

Despite having stopped attending Latihan for a number of years, she felt light as a bird and totally relaxed and ready to depart this Earth.

She was born in 1931 in Toronto Canada, the 2nd generation of Jewish refugees from Georgia and Lithuania.

As a young woman she started as a graphic artist and then a burgeoning and successful young actor. She met our father, Hanafi, in an acting school and they were opened in Subud in 1958 or '59.

She lived in many countries and we, her 6 children, did too... they were in Subud groups in London in the 60s, Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch in New Zealand, followed by San Diego and Los Angeles.

And it continued - Loudwater, then Sydney and back to the UK, becoming part of Canterbury group. They then headed back to Sydney and finally to Melbourne.

We had a small private ceremony for her in Melbourne in August. She was ready to pass and wanted no fuss.

Wanted to pass this on to all the groups that may remember our mum. She gave a huge amount of supporting to our father and her lightness and humour shone through at the last.

Love, Mufrida, Rohana, Rosada, Ismanah, Sahlan and Luqman www.mufridahayes.com ●

“ She was as light as a bird and totally relaxed, ready to depart this Earth...”

Rosanna Anne Inver Mount

26 April 1936 – 24 December 2022

Raynard van Hahn writes...

Rosanna was born on April 26, 1936 as the youngest of three daughters to Oliver and Elsie Marlow.

Rosanna was a gentle and sensitive person and since her childhood she always liked to draw. One Christmas, after the Second World War had ended, she received to her immense joy a painting set.

When music teachers played Bach she felt very moved. Singing was often a joy and she loved some of the hymns.



To read the complete obituary for Rosanna, click here:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Rosanna-Mount-Obituary.pdf> ●

Rosanna Anne Inver Mount

Vincent Mount writes...

Rosanna was an amazing woman, very much her own person. Many people thought she was lovably eccentric, others maybe rather odd.

She was my mother so I had my own view of her. In lots of ways she challenged me as she did my sisters and all our family members, but I recognise that she was only human, she had her faults as we all do, and she found life pretty hard.

No doubt much of what she was like as a woman was influenced by her early years. She was the youngest of three girls growing up during the war with parents who had a difficult relationship, and there were many hardships including the loss of her mother when Rosanna was only 19.



Rosanna at Loudwater.

To read this complete eulogy, click here:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Vincent-Eulogy-Rosanna-Mount.pdf> ●

The Passing of Oliver Haitzmann

Viktor Boehm writes...

Today I write you the sad news, that Oliver Haitzmann passed away this morning.

He was just a wonderful friend and brother, always there for me when I needed him.

I will miss him and will carry his memory deep in my heart.

Please God almighty bless him. Forgive Oliver his sins and wipe them clean.

Please accept all the good he has done. Grant him honour and his rightful home.

Open his way to you, O most loving and forgiving.

Amin, Anwar.



Oliver with Viktor Boehm.

Oliver Haitzmann

Robiyah Easty writes...

In the late '80s we had some enjoyable and successful holidays in a wonderful venue in Pelion, Greece, with lots of international visitors. Oliver and Sophia came to one of those with their children. Sophia had been doing latihan for some years, but Oliver was not yet opened.

One evening, Hassan Cwiertnia, Solihin Thom and I engineered an 'intervention' with Oliver: applying a little pressure, but lightly, with the help of a little wine (shsh!)... 'What are you waiting for?' and other such provocative questions.

We all three felt it was right... a three-pronged movement, but interspersed with jokes and laughter. On his way back to his chalet, no doubt pondering his objections to being pressurised, Oliver had a painful altercation with a thorn bush. He took this as a sign and a couple of days later we conducted his opening in one of the chalets (sometimes you know that the rules don't apply). The rest is history, as we say. Very quickly Oliver jumped feet first into the organization, first zonal and then international.

As the head of the Freiburg World Congress organizational team, Oliver gave a talk about the planning for it in the Zone 4 meeting in Halkidiki, Greece 2017. Oliver made a joke about the Bustillo family being everywhere and said, 'but I am with the Easty family'. This was met with laughter and Harina and I were delighted; my unspoken response was, 'You're very, very welcome.'

May God reward Oliver for his great service and Bless him on his onward journey.

Ridhwan Is'harc

Istafiah Is'harc, Central London Group, writes...

My beloved husband Ridhwan, aged 87, father of two and Grandpa of three, passed away in hospital on the evening of Sunday, 18 December. I was blessed to be with him, as he slipped out of this life, peacefully and almost imperceptibly. He looked young, tranquil and radiant.

Almost five years ago he underwent major life-saving surgery and was left with some life-limiting consequences. Despite that, he worked hard to overcome his difficulties and was able to live a near normal life. He believed that while God gave him life, he should do his best to use his

time and energy to help and support others.

More recently, however, his health declined at an increasingly rapid rate, and because of the complexity of his issues, nothing further could be done for him.

Ridhwan came to the UK from South Africa in 1960 and was a very active member, committee member and then helper of the Central London group for many years, and served two terms as national helper. He was also often called upon to conduct weddings, officiate at selamatans and other rituals of life.

My family and I would be grateful if you could please pray for him.

Sanderson Topham

Our father, Sanderson Rasjid Topham, passed away peacefully on Monday 23rd January 2023 with family by his side. He had suffered for many years with mixed dementia, which is a challenging disease. He lived a full life and was a dedicated member of Subud and committed his life to the latihan.

His family will communicate further details in due course to include a celebration of his life which he would have wanted to share with his Subud brothers and sisters.

In the interim please respectfully give his family time to grieve.

We thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Nurdin, Alanna, Mursalim, Afandi and Damiri

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S

A New Book from former SICA Chair, Latifah Taormina

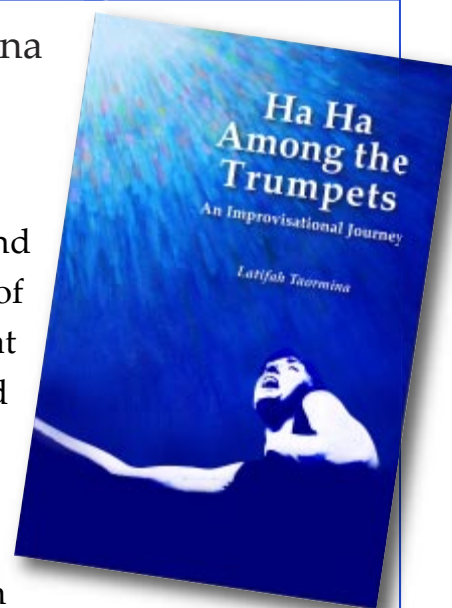
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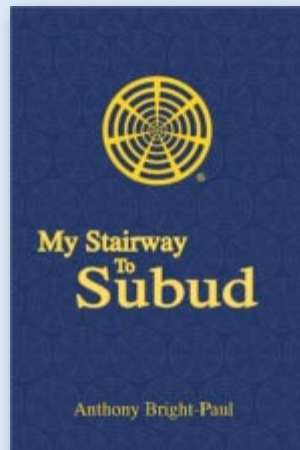
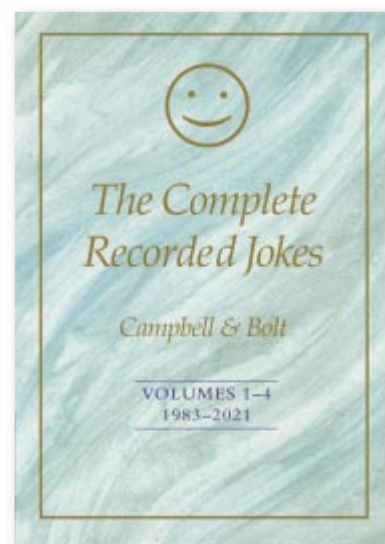
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