



# SUBUD VOICE

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## W E L C O M I N G   T H E   N E W   Y E A R

*From the editor...*

First of all, we are hoping you have a great 2019. May it be both prayerful and prosperous for us all! May we see shafts of sunlight penetrating the dark clouds!!! May we give thanks that we have the latihan and our organisation to withstand the buffeting of these troubled times.

I myself survived another year! Despite my second heart attack. In fact, I have never felt more alive in my whole life. So, it seems you need the second heart attack to feel really good. Just one will not do it. You need that second one.

After my heart attack which followed on immediately from the World Congress, I was cared for very well in Munich by Viktor and Lucia Boehm. Special thanks to Lucia for the great food. What a rejuvenator!

A secret I discovered about the Viktor while I was staying with them is that he plays great classical guitar amongst all his other outstanding qualities.

Viktor is of course a very faithful contributor to Subud Voice of and sending us his photographs and reports from Susila Dharma projects in the Congo and such places.

In this photo I think I am beginning to look a bit transparent. There are certain people who develop this transparent look in old age. You can see right through them. I think I am getting to that. I do not mind. It's not a bad look. There are worse looks in old age.



*Harris in Munich at the home of Viktor and Lucia Boehm after his heart attack following World Congress. He is beginning to look transparent.  
(Photo by Viktor Boehm)*

### SUBMISSIONS AND DONATIONS

Submissions to Subud Voice on any aspect of Subud life are welcomed. Send to Harris Smart, [subudvoice@gmail.com](mailto:subudvoice@gmail.com) We rely on donations to keep Subud Voice going. You can donate by going to the PAYMENTS tag on the left side of our homepage at [www.subudvoice.net](http://www.subudvoice.net)

***Thank you for your extremely good response to our recent fundraising appeal. AU\$1832 has come into our account since the beginning of December. It includes a generous donation of \$200 plus another of \$1000. If we could do this every month we would be in great financial shape.***

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## A Special Issue on the Organisation

This is an unusual issue of Subud Voice in that we've never done an issue before which has such a focus on the organisation. Often this is because not much is communicated that we can report on.

Fortunately, in this issue we have a real bonanza, because the World Congress minutes have just come out, and in a series of articles the WSA chair, Nahum, has given a very comprehensive expression of his views on the most important issues facing our organisation at this time.

So, it seems particularly propitious to have all this material at the start of a new year. It gives us a good foundation for looking at what we have done and where we are going as an organisation. What are our accomplishments? What are our current issues? What are the challenges for the future?

I believe that all the material we have published in this issue gives us a platform for considering these questions.

### From the Archives

Our friendly and helpful archivist, Daniela Moneta, sent me a quotation from Bapak very relevant to those of us who do publications for Subud. What Bapak says is very supportive and encouraging. How relevant and useful are the archives!

*From Bapak's talk in Coombe Springs 59 CSP 8 about the Subud Chronicle and newsletter...*

"There is nothing, therefore, against the customary ways of exchanging news and information between us; for instance, between you here and those in other places. Sending news to our distant brothers and sisters through the written word is also an expression of our worship of God. Doing so will enable you to learn and become aware of how to convey in a letter what is in your heart and in your inner feeling, in such a way that it can touch the soul. You will learn what is permissible to write in a letter and what is not; what feels good and what doesn't. The same is true for those who read it, for they will instantly understand whether an article in a newsletter is written only from the thinking mind, or whether it is already an expression of the writer's soul, coming from the purity of his or her inner feeling."

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## UNITY AND CONTINUITY... OPENING CEREMONY OF THE WORLD CONGRESS IN FREIBURG

*Every four years, Subud members get together to hold a World Congress. These are usually attended by around 2000 people from all parts of the globe. The most recent Congress was held in Freiburg, in Germany. The site of the Congress moves round from nation to nation and Congresses are being held in Europe, Asia and the Americas. The Freiburg Congress was the 15th Subud World Congress.*

*This issue of Subud Voice is particularly focusing on our organisation the World Subud Association (WSA). So, we are publishing some excerpts from the minutes of the World Congress and we are also publishing a series of articles in*



*The World Congress was opened by the outgoing WSA chair, Elias Coragem Dumit.*

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*which the WSA chair, Nahum Harlap, expresses his views on a range of subjects...*

*Let us begin by visiting the opening ceremony at Freiberg, as described in the World Congress minutes...*

The Opening Ceremony was a gala event and the culminating moment was the choir singing the “Ode to Joy” a special rendition put together by Aaron of Germany. Elias Coragen Dumit was introduced as the WSA Chair

After welcoming Ibu Yati and Ibu Ismanah, Tuti and Sjarif and all members of Bapak’s family thanking them for making the journey from Indonesia to Freiberg, he gave an outline of the content of the Congress focussing on UNITY and CONTINUITY of Subud for the long term for our future generations.

Oliver Haitzman, the Congress Organization chair, was introduced and gave us a few words on the background of organizing the Congress in Freiberg.

He thanked his entire organizing team for working hard for many months to facilitate the event which saw some 2500 people enjoying time, latihan, and conversations together, in short for helping to make this event possible.

“ It was a gala event...”

Elias and Oliver shared a few words of their experience during the preparation for the Congress especially the Hall 2 of our Subud Village describing in brief what we would all find in this ‘special place’.

It had been designed to bring everyone together in their shared experience of the activities of Subud around the world in all of its areas of interests: SDIA, SICA, SIHA, SESI, SYAI, Zones, WSA, WSA Services, Archives, IT and the forum for talks and shared workshops.

They thanked the Director of the Messe for cooperating with the Subud Organization and for granting Subud an extra space, Hall 2, free of charge.

As the Opening continued, youth representatives from zones 3 and 4, Guillaume Sanchez and Rosella Vaughn took the role of moderators for the event welcoming everyone and introducing each of the speakers.

Helen Han, Subud Germany chair, welcomed everyone and gave a brief explanation of the preparations for the Congress and recognized her team and shared some of her thoughts on the bringing to fruition this event.

As the mayor of Freiburg was unable to attend the opening, the Director of the Messe, was invited to share a few thoughts with all of us. As he did so we were able to smile at some of his words on the evolving process of working with the Organizing team which ended in the bringing together of our Subud members to Freiberg.

As the world map appeared on the screen the various delegations from our 40 countries represented at this time, were welcomed as they stood on behalf of their countries. Each delegation was applauded by all as their names were called. Unfortunately, this year only one country from French Africa, Angola, was able to receive the visas to enter Germany.

We were sad that Republique Démocratique du Congo, Congo Brazzaville and Bénin were unable to attend as well as Nigerian delegates from English speaking Africa. We kept them in our thoughts and prayers during our Congress.

Our brother, Ramzi Winkler, the oldest member attending the Congress at the age of 92, lead >



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everyone into a joyous musical rendition on his accordion. It was wonderful to see this young at heart member perform for all his brothers and sisters as he has done for so many years.

Our Executive Chair, Ismanah Schulze-Vorberg, expressed her love and respect for Ibu Rahayu (Bapak's daughter) and her continued role in our Subud Association. She then read a message sent by Ibu Rahayu welcoming everyone and praying for a successful Congress. (*This has been published in a previous edition of Subud Voice.*)

The complete minutes of the 15th world Congress in Freiberg are now available. Click here: <http://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/SWC-Minutes-Aug2018.pdf> ●

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## SELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AT WORLD CONGRESS

*Subud is a democratic organisation most of whose work is carried out by volunteers. Every four years at a world Congress, there is a changeover of officeholders who will serve the organisation for the coming term. This section from the Congress minutes describes the changes at Freiburg...*

*This section also gives some idea of the ways in which we reach decisions in Subud which is usually a mixture of the ordinary way of thinking plus the spiritual exercise which we practice in Subud. It's called the latihan and it's an Indonesian word which simply means "exercise". We believe it is a form of worship of Almighty God and in our decision-making we endeavour to be both practical and to also allow for the power of God to guide our decisions.*

*Decision-making in Subud about important issues such as the selection of officeholders is a combination of decision-making in the ordinary way combined with seeking the guidance of Almighty God, assisted by the IHs (International Helpers), a council of 12 men and women from different parts of the globe...*

*From the Congress Minutes...*

### 3.1. World Subud Association (WSA) chairperson

Eleven candidates had been nominated, a job description had been circulated and each candidate had submitted background information as well as letters of interest and CV.

Due to confidentiality issues the CVs had not been circulated ahead of time but summaries of each candidate's qualifications had been made available before the testing by the IHs.

Some of the candidates entered their names for testing at the last minute and so no information about them was circulated to the delegates ahead of time. No time was given for the delegates to ask questions of the candidates, as there were so many and in the interest of time.

There was a discussion after the testing as to the procedure being held. The delegates were not clear in their feelings as to what was being asked of them in the voting procedure. Was the decision >



*Evan Padilla, new chair of Susila Dharma International.*

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based only on the testing done by the IHs on the ability of all candidates for the position?

As there seemed to be only one possible candidate, for clarification purposes, a second question was asked of the candidate for WSA “How would it be for the growth and development of Subud if Nahum Harlap was to be the WSA chairperson for the next term”.

After more discussion the delegates felt ready to vote.

Following testing, Congress appoints Nahum Harlap as WSA Chairperson. Voting: New Zealand proposed Chile seconded 36-0-2. Abstaining countries were ready to go with the majority decision.

### 3.2. World Subud Association Executive Chairperson

There were nine candidates. Background information had been made available to delegates prior to testing for the position.

After a question on ability of the candidates to do the work, there were four candidates who seemed equally qualified so a second question, as to the growth and development of Subud, if the person was to be Executive chair of WS, was asked.

Following testing, Congress appointed Suyono Sumohadiwidjojo as WSA Executive Chair (ISC Chair). Voting: Norway proposed, Greece seconded 39-0-0.

### 3.3. WSA Executive Team

It was later announced that Rosario Moir of New Zealand would be the WSA Deputy Chair, Hannah Baerveldt would-be WSA Treasurer and that Salamah Dick LeClaire would continue as WSA Secretary until a new person was found to fill this role. The Executive Vice Chair position remains open until further notice. These persons were appointed in turn by the WSA Chair and Executive Chair.

3.4. Three candidates presented themselves to congress to be chair of SDIA. After testing, Congress appointed Evan Padilla as Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA) chairperson. Voting: proposed Spain Seconded USA 36-0-0

3.5 Three candidates presented themselves as SICA chair. Following testing, Congress appointed Rusydah Ziesel as Subud International Cultural Association (SICA) chairperson.

Voting: proposed Greece seconded Portugal 39-0-0

3.6. Following a selection process carried out by the Muhammad Subuh Foundation (MSF) Trustees and WSA Directors, including testing with the International Helpers, the WSA Directors chose Marston Gregory, Lucian Parshall, Mauricio Castillo, Federica Pudillo and Uraidah Arratia Becker to be the new trustees of the MSF.

The current trustees are: Elaina Dodson (appointed in 2016); Michael Heathcote (appointed in 2016); Muhsin daSilva (appointed in 2016). Nahum Harlap, as new WSA Chair, is ex officio trustee. Lillian Shulman will continue as Administrator and Elwyn Waugh will continue as Accountant.

Following testing by the International Helpers, Mauricio Castillo was appointed as the new Chairperson for MSF.

### 3.7. New Zonal representatives (appointed by their Zones):

Zone 1/2 Muchtar Rawlings: Zone 3 Hannah de Roo: Zone 4 Salama Gielge: Zone 5 Lutfiya Murray  
Zone 6 Mendès Lemba Mente: Zone 7 Uraidah Hassani: Zone 8: Helen Muñoz Zone 9 Sofia Mazzini

### 3.8. The following members were tested in as International Helpers:

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Area I: Isti Da Silva, Hermina Flynn, Rohmana Friend, Hussein Rawlings, Surdamadji Sumohadiwidjojo, Suryadi Sumohadiwidjojo

Area II: Harina Easty, Kamilla Konrad, Mariam Tikale, Alan Boyd, Valentin Pizzi, and Howard Ray

Area III: Halinah Rizzo-Busack, Joan Fromme, Illène Pevec, Banedict Herman, Kohar Parra, and Humphrey Williams.

3.9. [The following members were appointed as zonal representatives of Subud Youth Association International \(SYAI\)](#) following testing by the International Helpers.

Zone 1 Representatives: Harun DeSelincourt, Mashudi Sumohadiwidjojo

Zone 2 Representatives: Sajsheel Baiasubramaniam

Zone 3 Representatives: Guillaume Sanchez, Reuben Paemen

Zone 4 Representatives: Rosella Vaughn, Sarmun Bustillo

Zone 5 Representative: Emanuel Mbassi

Zone 6 Representative: Emanuel Mbassi

Zone 7 Representatives Bakhtiar Bustillo, Sorany Guja,

Zone 8 Representatives Laura Garcia, Farlan Bustillo

Zone 9 Representative: Erico Cesar

[Coordinator: for the SYAI Team:](#) Three candidates were proposed and after testing the delegates voted to appoint Felix Pietro as the new Coordinator for SYIA for the next term:

Voting: Cuba proposed, Italy Seconded 35-0-0

3.10. [There were six candidates for the role of Subud Enterprise Services International \(SESI\) chair/coordinator.](#) Each person was presented and a short biography was given to delegates of their qualifications and interests.

The delegates, after witnessing IH testing, voted to have Gaye Thavasin and Hammond Peek to be appointed as co-chairs of SESI for the coming term.

Voting Proposed Italy, Seconded Netherlands 31-0-0

3.11. [Three candidates presented themselves to Congress for the role of Subud International Health Activities \(SIHA\) representative.](#) Following testing, the International Helpers recommended and Congress appointed Albatina Phillimore.

Voting – Proposed Portugal, Seconded Canada 34-0-0

#### 4. NEXT WORLD CONGRESS

Three countries had proposed themselves to host the 2022 Congress: Australia, Colombia and Indonesia. Written proposals which had been delivered were made available to the delegates (not all proposals had been submitted).

Each Country gave a verbal presentation (some countries had PowerPoint presentations) to the plenary and delegates. The teams were available to answer questions. Following testing delegates voted to accept Indonesia's proposal to host the next World Subud Congress in Kalimantan in 2022.

Voting: 42--0-1) Abstaining country was ready to accept majority decision.

For contact details for office-holders go to: [https://www.subudworldnews.com/wsc\\_officers.html](https://www.subudworldnews.com/wsc_officers.html) ●

# NAHUM SPEAKS!

*From the editor... In November I wrote to Nahum Harlap, the WSA chair, asking him if he would be willing to do an interview with me to be published in Subud Voice...*

*I said that there were three issues which seem to be generating a lot of discussion in Subud at this time that I would like to talk to him about them. These issues were...*

- 1. His "vision" as WSA Chair*
- 2. His attitude towards the wings*
- 3. The decision to sell the Gran Salon at Amanecer...*

*He wrote back to say that he preferred not to do an interview because...*

*"I don't find the mode of interview useful because I tend to think while talking, trying out an idea, then modifying it through a conversation. So, for me, a conversation is a way to try out ideas, not to express a fully formed idea that I'm willing to stand for.*

*"Writing ideas down gives me more time to review them and consider what is, as yet, too half-baked to commit to.*

*"I certainly wouldn't mind if you used some or all of the written material I sent you to produce your own understanding of it – and I'd love to review it – not so much to control it, but to see how it is understood and whether I need to clarify things further.*

*I agreed to go ahead in the way that Nahum suggested. I asked him about his biography and how it reflected on his role as WSA chair. He wrote...*

The factual biography is a simple matter. As to what any of it means to my current role? Not sure, other than that having operated in such a variety of spheres and places adds up to making me feel reasonably confident in operating in a variety of circumstances.

In that respect I find that many Subud people have had an incredible journey in their lives and find themselves able to offer value from their life experience, so I'm certainly not unique in that.

The most daunting aspect of every situation is to get all of us to see our common good and sense how to serve it in a way that aligns and enhances our own growth and development, rather than conflicts with it. I'm not sure that anything in my life circumstances is relevant to that – other than the latihan.

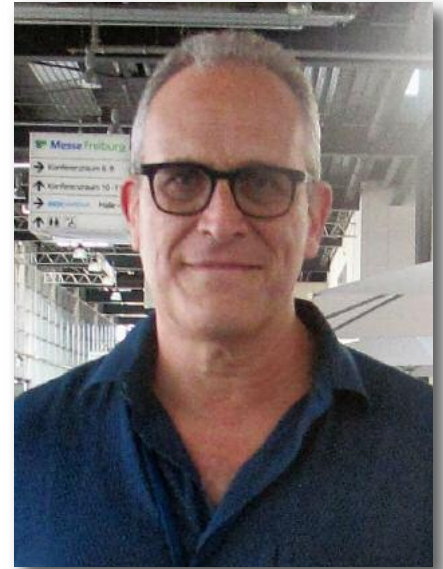
So... I was born in Israel to a secular Jewish family that settled there in the 1880s.

I grew up there, served in the army the mandatory 3 years (in computer programming), and continued to graduate from university with a degree in Philosophy.

I left Israel in 1984, first to Geneva, Switzerland for a couple of years, where I wrote a commodity futures trading computer program.

I then moved to London and did a degree in Mathematics (1988-1991). Towards the end of it I got opened, and after I finished that degree, I changed direction entirely to counselling, and eventually a Master's degree in Psychotherapy and Counselling.

While doing that, I also took on in parallel a 4-year diploma course in Chinese Medicine.



*Nahum Harlap, the new WSA chair.*



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During those years I got married and became a helper in Central London.

In 2001 my wife and I moved to Perth, and our daughter was born a few months later. I continued to function as a helper in Perth.

I tried to build a practice in my two disciplines, Psychotherapy on the one hand and Chinese Medicine on the other, but this didn't develop sufficiently well, so I decided to concentrate on investments – something that I have been doing throughout all those years in parallel to my studies.

By late 2009 and early 2010 I started to invest in real estate locally, and I also became a national helper (2010-2014), IH (2014-2018) and now WSA chair.

*From an email to Osanna Vaughn...* This email gives a useful brief overview of what Nahum perceives as some of the main issues facing his administration...

As for my travels – I have just attended the MSF board meeting in Washington DC and I intend to travel next to the Indonesian national congress which is to take place in Bandung during the first three days of February.

As for a message; The team and I have been primarily preoccupied with the financial shortfall we are facing in the coming year/s. A bare-bones budget for the WSA is around the \$475,000 mark, which is a very small amount in today's world, and as far as I'm aware, has changed very little for many years.

A significant portion of it goes to finance IH travel and the Archives, both being our core activity, revolving around the Kejiwaan. For about 20% of our budget we are forced to rely on the MSF, which is not ideal, and the member countries contribute only around 35%. This has been the usual pattern for the WSA in recent years, and we have then relied on soliciting donations from generous individual members to make up the difference.

I do not believe that relying on individual donations is sustainable, or desirable. The only good solution I can see to this situation is higher contribution from the member countries, and for this we need to utilise our Subud houses to generate as much income as possible – so that hopefully some of it trickles to the WSA.

As things stand, we're so short of funds that this may well be the first year in our history where we don't have a WSC meeting. If we somehow manage to get further funding later in the year, we are still likely to run an absolutely minimal WSC meeting.

For a very complete statement by Nahum of his support for "Centerprises", click here...

<http://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/CENTERPRISES.pdf>

See the following articles in this issue of Subud Voice in which Nahum talks about a range of issues including his "vision" as WSA Chair, the Wings and the sale of Amanecer...

## THE VISION

*In the email I wrote to Nahum Harlap, the WSA chair, asking him if I could do an interview with him, I made the following comment...*

*"Perhaps some people see you as somewhat secretive and mysterious and that you do not communicate a vision as the chair of WSA. That moment during the world Congress when one of the delegates was trying to get you to expound your vision you may have seemed offhand."*

*To see our common good in a way that enhances our development, rather than conflicts with it...*

*We need to utilise our Subud houses to generate as much income as possible...*



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*In this response from Nahum, he talks about his leadership style and “vision” ...*

As promised, here is my response to your email...

First of all, I genuinely thank you for alerting me to criticism. I always prefer to hear this to my face and be given the opportunity to respond.

If anyone approaches you with criticism of me and/or the functioning of the WSA, please urge them to get in touch directly with me and explain what troubles them.

I have yet to turn anyone down – I have addressed all questions addressed to me in the best way I can, and unless I’m absolutely inundated with letters to an extent that is beyond my capacity to respond to, I shall endeavour to respond within a reasonable amount of time, as I have so far.

I do not consider myself at all mysterious or evasive or dismissive – I do respond to the best of my ability at the time and I think you know me enough to know that I don’t keep my opinions to myself.

### Vision for the WSA: Willingness to Serve

Which brings me to the question about my vision for the WSA. which was asked at the congress. I have indeed answered it in the best possible manner I could at the time, and here’s why: I did not come to the Congress with a vision, and certainly not with a vacuous political speech about the wonders I’m about to perform.

I came with a willingness to serve, and with questions about my capacity and suitability that were going to be answered by a test by the IHS. I came with trust that if tested to the role, I shall be guided towards whatever needed attention, and it would be my responsibility to answer to this guidance.

That was my response to the question at the plenary – I’m here to serve you, and I expect to be shown what’s important and how to deal with it, and in this, cooperate with the rest of the WSA team – we are in it together and what we do is an outcome of an ongoing conversation where I have an important voice, but certainly not the only voice.

Having a ‘vision’ seemed to me both presumptuous and premature, and it would have come from my mind rather than from guidance.

The past three months have so far vindicated my approach – I have been repeatedly led in directions that need attending to, and lead to talk to people who were able to educate me to help me develop the right understanding of matters requiring attention. I expect this process to continue.

I see absolutely no need to change anything in the structure/form of our organisation – time and again I am struck by the perfect way Bapak has set it up, so I have no ‘vision’ regarding its structure.

There are matters of substance/content that need to be addressed. Our financial position and failure to develop Subud owned enterprises are paramount, and the Grand Salon is tangentially related to these – the two letters I sent you should give you an idea of what has occupied my time so far and the vision I have developed – to the extent that it can be termed

“ I see absolutely no need to change anything in the structure of our organisation...” ”



*Nahum believes that funds for WSA could be generated by using our Subud houses more profitably. Subud Los Angeles along with many other groups, provides a good example by renting space to tenants.* >

'vision' – again, I find this word a bit presumptuous. I prefer to call it an understanding of what needs attending to.



*Having a "vision" at World Congress seemed presumptuous and premature...*



### The Wings

The last point that I need to address is that about 'cutting off the Wings'. There is one sense in which this is true – the WSA is presently unable to finance the attendance of the wings and affiliate chairs in the WSC meeting.

In fact, our financial situation is so bad that we may not even have a WSC meeting, and this would be a first. At the moment the wings, other than SESI, are a bit of a distraction at a time when we are concerned with the survival of the WSA and its ability to simply maintain Bapak's mission of making the latihan kejiwaan available in its pristine form to anyone who wishes to follow this path, which is what we are about.

My main focus is to get SESI to guide groups to generate sufficient income from their houses so that some of it trickles down to the WSA to support our core functions of IH travel and the Archives.

Once we sort this out, we can talk about the other wings. It is not clear to me that right now we should allocate our meagre resources to non-core activities, important as they may be. I shall offer a couple of other comments;

1. We of course provide kejiwaan support to any wing or affiliate – this is what we are for.
2. We shall make our organs of communications available to the wings and affiliates to broadcast to the community what they are up to, so interested members can get involved.
3. When you consider that SICA and SDIA, as affiliates, are fully autonomous, it makes more sense to expect them to take responsibility for sending representation to the WSC.
4. Notwithstanding the above, WSA and SDIA put together a team to work on a Memorandum of Understanding that will attempt to clarify the nature of the relationship between the two

I shall write a bit more at length about the Wings separately. ●

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## THE WINGS

*Nahum writes...*

As for the wings – just a few brief comments...

1. it is hard to generalise and talk about them as a group – each presents with different issues.
2. To the extent that they are a part of Bapak's vision, I accept them without reservation.
3. The wings were clearly intended to be about putting the latihan into practice in the world, making us better and making the world better.
4. That said, I'm not convinced that as they are now, they express Bapak's vision so much as having morphed into their own thing.
5. Regardless, the question I'm grappling with is not about their aims or how they manifest, but about their proper relationship with the WSA.

I'll use SICA and SESI as an example – because my own thinking about them and understanding >

of them is a little more developed, though definitely still a work in progress.

“ *The Wings’ issue is for me a work in progress.* ”



*Giant puppet, Oonti, at the World Congress, a SICA project. Nahum is eager to explore the relationship between WSA and the Wings.*

### SICA & SESI

SICA has become primarily an environment for creative and performing artists to hang out together supporting each other, looking for opportunities to cooperate with each other in what they do, and in fundraising. As such, there’s absolutely nothing wrong with it, but is that what it was meant to be? And more importantly from where I sit, how should the WSA relate to it?

“ *The Arts have other sources of funding in the larger community, while the latihan doesn’t...* ”

To me, SICA has a wider mandate of being a mentoring and supporting program for Subud members who ‘do their own thing’, explore their talent guided by the latihan, and so for me, the ‘moon-shot’ projects historically supported by SESI should actually be SICA, while SESI should focus more on sourcing funding for the WSA from Subud owned enterprises, as opposed to individually owned enterprises.

So that SICA is about individual expression in all its shape and forms, including business, whereas SESI is about the organisation. The concept of enterprise is primarily about cooperation, about a community being productive in harmony, generating the resources it needs – it is not so much about individual self-expression.

### Relationship of Wings and WSA...

Most important – regardless of their place for the individual Subud member, my concern is about them >



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as organisations, and the relationships between these organisations and the WSA. What should they expect from the WSA? What should the WSA expect from them?

There is a big difference in the questions you ask yourself as an individual who wonders what SICA means to you and the question I ask myself is... what is the proper relationship between two organisations?

At a personal level SICA may be for you an umbrella under which you meet like-minded Subud members for support and cooperation. Now, regardless of the question whether this is what it is supposed to be, about which there would be many points of view, my question is, well, OK, what are our duties, as the WSA, towards SICA? And likewise, I'd ask what are the duties of SICA towards us?

Certainly, if you are after kejiwaan support, or archival material where Bapak or Ibu explain about Culture, we should support you. I do not believe that we should be a source of funding for you, though – you should develop your own sources, and ideally, they shouldn't compete with us.

We would all be fishing in the same shrinking pool, and certainly, from where I sit, I'd like to see funding for IH travel and archives being ahead in members priorities rather than supporting an art exhibition. Not because an art exhibition is not important – but because the arts do have other sources of support and funding in the larger community, while the latihan doesn't – it is up to us.

In the case of SDIA we are attempting to address precisely this question – the relationships between the organisations – and it is not at all obvious.

The bottom line – the Wings issue is for me a work in progress, and as I said, due to far more urgent concerns, it has to take the back seat for now, though writing this to you is a way of trying to engage with the issue.

Certainly, when it comes to financial priorities, the WSA is front and centre of our concerns, so our financial relationship with the wings is a moot point right now, at a time when our resources are so limited.

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*Our financial relationship with the Wings is a moot point right now...*

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## ON AMANEKER

*Nahum Harlap, WSA chair writes...*

*As promised, here is my position regarding Amanecer. There is a short, bottom-line position, and a very long explanation of the thinking behind it...*

*The context of Nahum's remarks concerns recent developments in determining the fate of Amanecer's Gran Salon (the part of Amanecer that can be used for workshops, conferences and other events). The centre was originally built in Colombia as the venue for a World Congress, but the project has not proved to be sustainable.*

*Decision-making about the future of the project is complicated by the fact that there are many stakeholders including WSA, MSF and Subud Colombia, as well as the owners of the land around the Gran Salon and people who live there.*

*The Gran Salon itself, and the land around it is owned by MSF on behalf of the WSA. The rest of Amanecer is owned by Subud Colombia. Now WSA/MSF has decided to put the Gran Salon at Amanecer up for sale, whether within or outside Subud.*

*The following article is based on a letter that Nahum wrote to a group of people who had put forward a proposal for keeping the centre...*



### The bottom-line

If you feel that GS (Gran Salon) is a good business prospect and is at risk of being sold for a pittance, you are welcome to put forward your best offer.

You would have my most sincere prayers for your success. I would wish for you to thrive and prosper to a point where you can take over all of Amanecer and turn it into everything you ever hoped for it to become. I would also hope that in your success you will remember to contribute to the WSA.



*Quo vadis Amanecer?*



*There is a missing link in the chain...*



### The long answer

My impression is that, when it comes to Subud owned enterprises, we have attempted to run before we could even crawl. To have an inspiration (Zat) is not the same as to have the ability, capacity and willingness (Sifat) to put in the necessary work (Asma), and 25 years of the less than satisfactory Af'al is all the proof and all the testing that is needed to realise that there is a missing link in the chain.

As a general rule, at the wide, organisational level we have not learned the most basic lesson about enterprise – to subsume our egos under harmonious team action that serves our community.

We have occasionally managed short bursts of this – every time we work together for a World Congress (or the construction of Amanecer) – but never in a long term, sustained manner that leads to a healthy organic growth of the Subud community.

Elsewhere, I have likened it to the enthusiasm of falling in love and having a baby yet failing to provide the right care and support for that baby to reach the fully actualised outcome we dreamt about at its conception. I don't think we have developed what it takes by way of capacity to achieve such a sustained level of cooperation.

A Subud enterprise is as much about the harmony in working together towards a shared result as it is about the result itself. Bapak never pushed us to seek maximum profit – what was important is to develop a sense of community operating in harmony while both satisfying our own needs and developing the capacity to help others.

To some extent, there is an inherent paradox in Subud, between, on the one hand, our growth and development as individuals, and on the other, being able to cooperate communally in a manner that would provide a shining example to the rest of humanity.

We know this is possible – somewhere along the arc of growth we do learn to come together and cooperate and when we do, we derive great satisfaction from it and we learn to be responsible to an ever-wider community, but this is a very slow process.

### Building from the Ground up

I believe that we need to build our capacity to work together from the ground up, starting in our own back yards – our own Subud houses, which are seldom utilised to their fullest capacity, and often offer the most painful examples of, at best, lack of responsibility and at worst, disharmony.



*It is time for WSA/MSF to let go of Amanecer...*



If we get this right in our own back yard – then, and only then, should we dare to venture again to far-away-places and try to get things to work there. Having had success in operating together at home, having developed our capacity for responsibility, we would then know what it takes, and we shall do it better. In that respect, Amanecer came way too early for Subud, as did some other debacles that started with a thrilling inspiration.

As an organisation, we have not developed the capacity to make such a project work for the long term, which is why we, as an organisation (WSA/MSF), still do not have the ability to make anything of the GS.

Even Subud Colombia, who should find it easier than the WSA, doesn't have this capacity – and they have one of the largest memberships in the Subud world. They, who should know best, have been consistently ambivalent about the place.

There have always been members there hoping that it would become something special, and others who don't want to know. If Subud Colombia can't make anything of it, how could the WSA/MSF? We have just gone through that pendulum swing between hope and reality yet once more over the past year. Enough.

It is therefore that we must seek private solutions and open this process both to the Subud community and beyond – and this brings me to the bottom line above.

It is very clear to both the MSF trustees and the WSA zone representatives that, again, as organisations, we should cease to be responsible for the Gran Salon in any shape or form. 25 years of failure to make this sustainable is enough.

For the organisation it is an unnecessary distraction. It consumes an inordinate amount of our time and money and while we all truly sympathise with those among us who are attached to a vision with Amanecer at its centre, it is time for the WSA/ MSF to let go of it, and we genuinely encourage anyone interested to make an offer for it.

Our responsibility is for the future of the organisation as a whole, and it seems quite clear to us that a significant majority of members who at all care to be interested in this topic would like to see the GS go.

On a personal note, I would call upon every signatory to your letter to get their own group to function at the full potential of its capabilities, then widen your sphere of interest to your region, then country and then internationally. We have enough work ahead of us in our own immediate sphere where we can make a difference, so let's start from there. Finally, I always welcome questions, comments and in general, direct communication and I shall endeavour to respond in a timely manner. ●

”

*We have not been able to achieve a sustained level of co-operation...*

“



*The Subud symbol in the roof of the Gran Salon at Amanecer. A reminder of the World Congress that was held there. No wonder we find it hard to let go of this place...*

**We have published these messages from Nahum in hopes that they will encourage debate within our organisation. We would be interested to publish in Subud Voice any responses from members about what Nahum has to say. Contact the editor [subudvoice@gmail.com](mailto:subudvoice@gmail.com)**

## FROM RUSYDAH, THE SICA CHAIR...

*Hello, I am Rusydah Ziesel, the new SICA chair...*

I believe that we are all creative beings. Creativity is part of being human. Nevertheless, only the power of God can make us alive. Through the latihan we develop our human gifts and talents, which may also seek expression in a cultural form.

Not all of us are artists but everyone carries an inner culture, that which wishes to express itself.

We are creative beings. Our words, thoughts and feelings have power. We manifest what we believe. I want to contribute to manifesting our being in this world in a positive way and by turning our world together into a better place through good performance and projects. The Subud International Cultural Association can be a vessel for this expression. For this reason, SICA is for each one of us.



*Rusydah Ziesel, Chair of SICA.*

“SICA will work together with all the other Wings to create projects...”

### Rusydah's Background

In Subud, I've served as both a local helper and as a national helper. I joined the SICA board four years ago after the World Congress in Mexico. When Sebastian asked me if I would consider to testing about becoming the SICA chairlady, a feeling of joy arose within me and I spontaneously laughed. The test was also very strong and full of joy for me.

I found Subud when I met my husband, Anwar Ziesel, whom you will know as the recent vice-chair of the WSA Executive. I was then 24 years old. Anwar was from a Subud family, but still not opened.

He told me about the latihan, and as he was explaining it, he had his own sudden understanding. That is how it happened that we both got opened in Subud. I am now 50 years old and live in Ebersberg near Munich in Germany.

I am a child care worker, theatre pedagogue, clown, storyteller, painter and art therapist. I work independently in my "Atelier 24einhalb": [www.atelier24einhalb.org](http://www.atelier24einhalb.org)

### I started painting...

I started painting when I became pregnant. Anwar and I had already been married for ten years and had given up our wish for children. And then I became pregnant. That was like a small miracle for us. Nine weeks later, however, I had a miscarriage.

The power of God in the latihan was very comforting, and I worked through my sadness as I began to paint. I started on a square, white canvas without actually knowing what was to be created. I painted a light-blue baby whose umbilical cord reached up to heaven and was embedded in roses.

As I painted, I had slight bouts of fever; again and again I felt exhausted and had to lie down. Then my body danced again, and the brush found its own rhythm on the canvas. The picture was finally completed. I looked at it and the picture looked back.

It was a moment of great intensity. It was as if the picture merged into me. It went deeper and deeper inside of me until it found my sadness and the sadness, and the picture melted together. I laughed and cried at the same time and then it was over. This healing experience of a creative >



process brought me to learn more about painting at an open university.

*“You are an artist!”*

Then about seven years ago, Anwar and I visited Kalimantan. In my first latihan, a strong vibration arose within me, it flowed through my head from above and finally touched my entire body. Then within me, I heard a thunderous voice which said: “You are an artist!” It was like a bomb that had shattered a wall within me.

Every subsequent latihan in Kalimantan was similar. The vibration, the voice like thunder and the crumbling of inner walls. My mind was confused. I had not seen myself as an artist until then. I may have performed, sung and painted, but was certainly no artist! And definitely not a professional!

But something changed in me through this experience because I then permitted myself to follow my creative impulses, my expressiveness and that gave me the freedom to do that what I love.

What makes it special to be a professional artist and also to be in Subud? SICA can support us, create networks and spaces for experience, both within and out in the world.

Let us create activities that strengthen our connection with each other, which make ourselves visible. I personally wish that we ourselves are the change that we wish for.

### *Promoting the Development of Subud Communities*

SICA would like to promote the development of Subud communities, centers and houses. We wish to use the Subud Centers as our organization structures and keep and/or make them vital. Peter Jenkins has already written of his “Comuniversity” project. Now the name is changed to “Gap Year Quest”.

See Peter’s article about the Communiversity on the front page of the October issue of Subud Voice. Go to: <http://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SVO-OCTOBER-2018.pdf>

SICA would like to improve the understanding of the creative, cultural process in relation to the inner process of human beings. (We have programs like: Culture Compass and Keys to Creativity and festivals like Poems for Peace). SICA requires a living network and for this reason requires a vital platform. SICA will work together with all the other wings to create projects.

It is only through the power of God that we can experience and develop the gift of our uniqueness and the flowering of our soul. And bring something new and good into the world. And I pray the Subud International Cultural Association may become strong and a worthy vessel for the expression of our gifts – gifts that have been awakened by the latihan kejiwaan of Subud – out in the world.

If you wish to contribute to SICA or if you wish to get the SICA newsletter, please get in touch with me. I look forward to your contact at: [Rusydah.Ziesel@subud.org](mailto:Rusydah.Ziesel@subud.org)

For the Flowering of the Soul. My love and respect to you all.



*At Basara in Central Kalimantan on New Year’s Eve.  
SICA aims to create community.*



*It was a moment of  
great intensity...*





# THE WORLD CONGRESS CHESS SET

*Something that impressed many people, young and old, at World Congress was chess set in the Subud Village. Leuthold Aulig, creator of these chessmen, tells a story of receiving and how receiving becomes reality. Thank you to Rita Oakford, Leuthold's daughter, for translating and facilitating the contact with Leuthold...*



*The chessmen made by Leuthold Aulig in the Subud village were a source of delight for young and old. Based on Grimm's fairy tales they were an expression of German culture.*

Dear Harris,

I was happy to hear that you liked my chess set based on characters from Grimm's Fairy Tales, and I am grateful for your invitation to write something about them for Subud Voice.

I myself was surprised, and even moved, by the response to them and by the affectionate attention they received from both young and old participants. Occasionally it brought tears to my eyes. For me it was a true latihan experience, something I have had occasionally before, but never with such consistent intensity.

Until our National Congress in Nordhelle in 2017 my interest in playing an active role in the World Congress preparations was lukewarm. Like many, I felt that it was time for the young generation to take the lead. The dinosaurs were no longer needed.

That was until Oliver Heitzmann gave a precise overview of the preparations for the Congress. Suddenly I had the feeling that things were finally starting to roll, and I wanted to be a part of it.

I was well aware of the fact that this would be my last World Congress and I wanted to give some- >



*Leuthold Aulig.*

---

thing back in return for receiving the latihan.

“ Just work, have patience, be attentive  
for inner and outer signs...”

### Getting Moving

It took me a while to get moving, but one day I approached Rusydah and told her that she could count on me if she needed any help. Then one night I dreamt that I had to play chess, but I did not know how.

I was so desperate that I woke up, fell back asleep, and forgot everything, until I saw the plans for the “Garden” in Hall 2. The architects had sketched in a chessboard! So, I set about to come up with some models and experiment with ways to build a chess set.

At the beginning of February, I received word that my idea of creating a chess set for the “Garden” had been accepted, but the plans they sent did not appeal to me at all.

Nevertheless, the idea of the chess set continued to preoccupy me, and one night I woke up to discover that my whole body was vibrating unusually strongly. I crawled out of bed, went into the living room, and did latihan.

When it was over, I looked at my book case. Staring me in the face were two volumes of “Grimm’s Fairy Tales” that I had overlooked until now. The next day I finally had the idea of how to make the chessmen – as characters from the fairy tales collected by the Brothers Grimm.

### Regaining Human Status

Fairy tales have always interested me because many of them tell the story of how mankind falls into the abyss of the material forces and then with the help of the vegetable and animal forces regains a human status again, i.e. becomes “king”.

Other tales tell us how the “Good” is finally rewarded in the end. Last but not least I had the feeling that we as the host country should provide something typically “German” from our own culture.

“Grimms’ Fairy Tales” have been translated into many languages, and they have been accepted into and become a part of other cultures as well. In 2005 the United Nations declared the “Kasseler Handexemplare der Kinder und Hausmärchen” (The title of the original German version) to belong to the “Memory of the World”. “Grimms’ Fairy Tales” and Martin Luther’s translation of the Bible, are the two best known examples from German culture, in both Germany and the rest of the world.

This was in the back of my mind when I began to think about how to put my ideas in to practice. Many things still had to be cleared up. How much of a budget was I to have (traditionally budgets in Subud are small), what kinds of material should I use, how large and heavy could the chess men be, how to make them fire proof, and should I use colourful paints or wood stains? These and other questions had yet to be resolved.

In the meantime, I began to sketch out draft versions of the individual characters and make them into models. As I sketched, I assumed that others would join in, but that was not the case. So, the well, the rose arches, the shower of flower rings and other unfinished ideas were left up to me to realize in addition to the chess set.

### Help!

Soon I realized that I needed help, so I asked my long time Subud brothers Reinold Rohde, Raphael Hartung and Steffen Schreiber to give me a hand because each of them had a work room with a jig saw. They immediately agreed to help, even though they had other issues to deal with. >

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Raphael was taking strong pain killers and facing a severe operation on his vertebrae. He would not be able to take part in the Congress, yet he wanted to contribute to it. Nor was Reinold's back in good shape and Steffen would have to take time off from planting his potato crop.

“ Pray that your ego doesn't get in the way...”

In a game of chess, each side has the same figures, some two or more times, so I had to cut out patterns for the individual parts of each character for each of my helpers before the production could begin.

Some of the figures consisted of up to twenty-four individual parts. Each one had to be glued or screwed on, sanded, primed, painted, and then provided with eyes, ears, noses and insignias. Of course, everything for the lowest possible cost. That was my job.

The finished results were scheduled for pick up from the Subud House in Wolfsburg on July 12th, so we began to work in the beginning of April. We only had three months. I would start to work after breakfast and not quit until I went to bed.

I never would have been able to finish everything by myself so besides human help – here my wife Henriette deserves special mention – I received help from elsewhere.

### Just Go to Work

Whenever something did not work – no idea what the next character should look like, or I was unable to find the right material – I was barely able to fall asleep. I would wake up between 2 and 4 a.m. with strong vibrations throughout my entire body.

I would get out of bed, go into the living room and do latihan for a quarter to a half an hour and then go back to bed. The next morning all my doubts had been forgotten, and I just had to be wait for the right sign.

A good example of this were the seven flower rings that hung from the ceiling in Hall 2. For weeks I searched for the appropriate material for the rings in sport shops and in the internet, but to no avail so I finally tried to form the rings myself out of narrow strips of wood. One meter in diameter worked well, but at three meters, the circle turned into an ellipse. I gave up.

Then one morning, after another night's sleep interrupted by vibrations and latihan, I came upon an article in the morning newspaper that described an event where they demonstrated the Cyr Wheel. That was it! A Cyr Wheel – 2 meters diameter, thin iron rings, flower rings.

Immediately I called the gymnastics club that had organized the demonstration and they gave me the address of the manufacturer. His rings were not the right size, but he did suggest a small firm not far from Wolfsburg that might be able to help us. The very same day I drove to the company and they were able to provide the seven rings that later hung over the “Garden”.

Some people might call it “coincidence”, in German Zufall, an ambiguous term that can also mean I got what was coming to me. Whatever, for me it was another lesson: just go to work, have patience, be attentive for inner and outer signs and pray that your “ego” does not get in the way.

### Back to the Chess Men

But back to the chess men: as Chancellor Merkel, remarked when she was asked about the flood of refugees on their way to Germany: “We can do it”. And we did it. The last three wooden

“ I would wake up with strong vibrations throughout my entire body...”



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chess men accompanied Henriette and myself on our drive to Freiburg in our VW Touran.

When we arrived at the Congress Hall, Reinold Rohde had already rolled out the playing board carpet that he himself had created. After many intensive but futile searches for large carpet squares, he came upon anthracite grey, inexpensive, roll ware carpeting on which he and his wife Virginia painted chess board squares with left-over emulsion paint.

The first game of chess was played even before the Congress opened and throughout the Congress our team was praised for our accomplishments.

Many people had questions about the characters, so the chess set provided me with an opportunity for conversations that may not have otherwise taken place, especially with those still “young” in Subud. For me that was the finest reward for all our effort. My heartfelt thank you goes out to all of those who helped me make this idea become a reality.

By the way, I still do not know how to play chess.

### Biography

Leuthold Aulig was born in Wroclaw (then Breslau) in 1929. When he was ten years old his family moved to Wolfsburg. He trained as an agricultural assistant and later studied graphic design at the Alsterdamm School of Arts in Hamburg. Together with wife Henriette, he has three children: Heinz, Rita (Oakford), and Lukas. Leuthold and Henriette were opened in Coombe Springs in 1958, and they were the resident house masters in the Forsthaus in Wolfsburg for many years. ●



## REGIONAL CREATIVE GATHERING IN WOLLONGONG

*At Wollongong Subud Centre, Hillside Farm, Dombarton NSW. 26-28th October, 2018...*

The intention of this gathering was for our Subud brothers and sisters (and their families) from neighbouring Subud groups to visit us for a relaxed and enjoyable social weekend, with culture and creativity in a variety of forms being celebrated and shared. We welcomed input in all aspects from both hobbyists and professionals.

The event provided a forum also for us to consider the preparation for a combined Creative/Curative (SICA/SIHA) event to be held in 2019.

Through the Wings of Subud: culture, health, welfare, youth, enterprise, education, environmental awareness, social etc, Subud members are able to share aspects of Subud life with non Subud people without imposing the Subud spiritual philosophy upon them.



An event such as this is ideal for inclusion and Saturday afternoon and evening, with its workshops, games, market stall, art exhibition and performance evening was open to participation by our non-Subud friends and family.

“ An event like this is ideal for inclusion... involving non-Subud family and friends. ”

This event was also a fundraiser for the charity: People's Improvement Organisation (PIO) which is organised by Phymean Noun and supports the education needs of disadvantaged children in Cambodia. See: [www.peopleimprovement.org](http://www.peopleimprovement.org)

Proceeds not used to cover costs were donated to this charity via the registered Subud charity Morningside C.A.R.E. which is a member of Susila Dharma International.

To read a complete description of this event, click here

<https://www.subudworldnews.com/news.html>

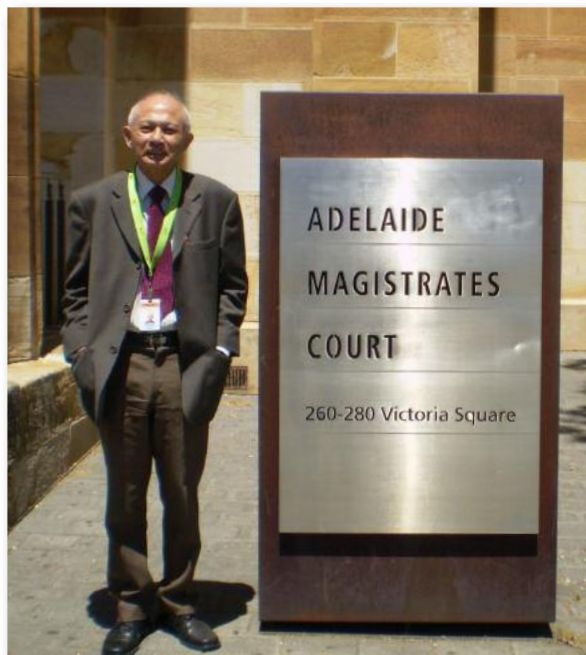
*Thanks to Alena Kennedy for sending us this excellent report.*

## HOW I FOUND SUBUD

*Tomik Subagio is a Subud member originally from Indonesia but resident in Adelaide, Australia, for many years. He has recently retired after working for many years as an interpreter at the Adelaide Magistrates Court and he has been writing about his experiences in Subud.*

*He says, "I just want to give an example to fellow members and remind them of Bapak and Ibu Rahayu's message to share our receiving with other fellow members, as I haven't seen or heard any sharing of Spiritual Experience/Receiving since I moved to Adelaide from Jakarta in 1968."*

*In this excerpt, Subagio shares how he came to Subud, his opening, and what Wisma Subud was like in those days...*



*Subagio has recently retired from being an interpreter at the Adelaide magistrates Court.*

### 1. DIVINE RETRIBUTION/REMINDER LED ME TO SUBUD

In the early nineteen sixties I was back in Jakarta as after completing my study of Mechanical Engineering. Soon I was confronted with problems of life that beyond the domain of the intellect to solve. A Divine Retribution was visited on me, an intellectual dependent who believed intellect alone could guide me safely in life.

I suffered an insomnia, then I remembered my sister's mention about Subud, that made me think perhaps the KEJIWAAN through Subud might be able to help me with my problems of life.

Insomnia – that I saw as a Divine Retribution for being an intellectual dependent which kept me awake for two weeks without a wink of sleep was instrumental for my joining Subud.

My brother who was a professor of law gave me an introduction letter to his PhD student Prio Hartono from Cilandak, believing that Subud might be able to help me out of my misery.

It was sometime in 1965 that I went to Cilandak on a Sunday afternoon and met Mas Prio Hartono and Mas Sudarto. I told these two helpers what I came there for, and perhaps in the course of conversation I said, "I would be dead if I had to wait for 3 months before I can be opened to Subud".

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Then Mas Sudarto reassuringly said, “No, younger brother, you do not have to go through the 3-month probationary period, you need to be opened immediately, not now, but in the very next group latihan night.” (which was on the following Tuesday or Wednesday I think).

I went home and that very afternoon after my first visit to Cilandak, I fell asleep on the sofa. It was my first sleep in 2 weeks, and although it was only for 5 or 10 minutes it was heavenly.

I was opened 2 or 3 days later in a group latihan. It was a most dramatic opening.

From then on normally I called at Mas Sudarto’s apartment for a cup of tea before we went to the group latihan together and after the latihan he would invite me back to his apartment for a chat over a cup of tea mainly about spiritual experiences.

One night after the group latihan, when Mas Prio Hartono happened to be there too at Mas Sudarto’s, I said to these two helpers that I could not have latihan properly with the group because of the noise.

As I had just finished saying that, Bapak called in the apartment from his nightly round of “inspection” around the Subud compound. At that time Bapak had a routine of doing his inspection around the compound at dusk carrying a torch with him.

Mas Prio Hartono passed on my complaint to Bapak, and Bapak instantly said, “You and Sudarto will just have to have latihan separately from the group with Subagio until such time when Subagio can have latihan with the group.”

From then on, I had my “private” latihan with Mas Sudarto for the whole year. In retrospect now, I can see that some Senior Helpers in Cilandak and Bapak were capable of “instant testing and receiving”, as to be able to break or make “rules”.

## 2. CILANDAK A SEAT OF SPIRITUAL POWER

From my very first visit to CILANDAK and my meeting with Mas Sudarto and Mas Prio Hartono, a couple of days before my opening in Subud, I was aware my consciousness underwent drastic changes. From a person believing that intellect alone could guide me safely through life to being sceptical to the ability of intellect to solve every problem of life.

I had not even heard the term “testing” in its spiritual context, let alone understood its meaning. And yet I was already given the inner understanding that one must wait for “the right way to be shown” (in the Qur’an – *“Ihdinash Shiraathal Mustaqim”*) before taking an important step in one’s life, rather than being rational and consulting the intellect to weigh up options of actions.

One or two days after I was opened in Subud at CILANDAK, I received for myself one of the most important “Tenets” or “Rules” in life, as I already mentioned in my previous writing, when a phrase in Javanese “*Yen DONYA dikuwasani NAFSU bakal hancur*” (If the WORLD is ruled by NAFSU it will destroy itself). was carved in my brain.

Both Mas Sudarto and Mas Prio Hartono discouraged me from asking questions related to Kejiwaan and encouraged me to be independent, for my own good and spiritual growth. “If you do not know the answer of a question, that means God does not think that you should know the answer yet, just do the latihan and wait until you receive the answer for yourself.” That was the essence of their advice to me.

\*

Mas Prio Hartono advised me not to read books about Subud unless written by Bapak himself.

But my active inquisitive mind could not help having multitudes of pressing questions cramming in my head that desperately screaming for answers.

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So, I decided to take my questions one at a time to Mas Sudarto and Mas Prio Hartono on our private latihan night.

A very extraordinary thing happened when I was taking my first question to CILANDAK for an answer, just before I arrived at the gates of CILANDAK the answer was spoken into my head. I did not tell either Mas Sudarto or Mas Prio Hartono of the extraordinary thing that had just happened to me. I did not even want them to know I had questions to take to them for answer.

But then this phenomenon was repeated on the following latihan night when I was taking another question to CILANDAK. And again, and again, invariably the same thing happened, when I was taking a question to CILANDAK the answer was given unto me before I got to the gates into CILANDAK.

I then thought that I ought to tell Mas Sudarto of my above most curious experience, to hear what explanation he would give me. And when I communicated my experience to Mas Sudarto he explained, as usual in a most caring tone;

“My younger brother, Subagio – Because of Bapak’s presence here in CILANDAK, the place has become A SEAT OF A SPIRITUAL POWER that radiates knowledge of TRUTH beyond the boundaries of CILANDAK to those who believe and ask.”

From then on, I was very much independent from Mas Sudarto, in the sense that whenever a problem of life confronted me, I had no inclination to take the question to CILANDAK for an answer, instead I waited for a receiving of the answer to be given unto me.

As Bapak used to advise in Dutch – “If you do not know what to do you should *op de plaats blijven* (stay put), until you receive for yourself the right way.”

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## REMEMBERING ALHAZMI

*Alhazmi Shea/Russ passed away peacefully in his sleep on November 28, 2018. Halimah Russ delivered this eulogy at Alhazmi’s funeral celebration in Melbourne on Monday, December 10, 2018...*

In many ways this is a love story that we have all shared in, here in this congregation and beyond – we are all part of it.

Alhazmi was a man of content and his own person, curious, intelligent, a connoisseur of beauty and a man who could move easily through any level of society.

He had the uniquely creative quality of taking something from the past and giving it his very own twist, be it an idea or a ramshackle home.

We all know this of him and I also want to acknowledge that he was a dedicated father to our 3 children. Even if all his decision-making wasn’t beneficial to others, he carried this loving sentiment in his heart of hearts – to his dying day.

Despite the fractured family we became, we all worked at putting the past in its place, grew as individu-



*Alhazmi and grand-daughter Samira, aged three.*



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als and reconnected to the love, care and forgiveness between us.

Reconciliation — is the gift I am left with along with our children, Magnus, Alexandra, our son-in-law Abdulhadi and our beautiful grand-daughters, Ameena and Samira.

Thankfully, Alexandra and Magnus have wonderful dollops of their father's characteristics, quick wits and humour, deep sensitivity and worldly intelligence.

For all of us it was a life shared with this larger than life man.

I was married to Alhazmi for 26 years and became his close friend over the next 20.

### Meeting and Marriage

I first met him, a Muslim, in the early part of 1974 in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he was representing the International company, Rio Tinto Zinc and I was teaching Art at the International school.

On our first date he picked me up with his driver and off we went to an open-air performance of some French contemporary dance, a very rare event in Jakarta at that time.

During the performance there was a tropical down pour and we both ended up drenched.

We returned directly to his home where he showed me politely to a guest room whilst handing me a towel, a sarong and a shirt. When I came out to join him – he had changed into a long silk kaftan with his beautiful brindle afghan hounds abounding. The room was filled with tasteful objects and antiques, while the house plants stood taller than him.

I think at this point, I was a goner and by November of that same year I embraced Islam and we were married.

He insisted that it be a huge affair organised by a wedding planning team and – himself.

Three ceremonies followed on the same day, the last being a reception for 300 or more people, who were treated to a performance of a full Javanese theatre enacting one of those mythological stories from the Mahabharata

If he could think of it, he would do it!

### Honeymoon in Mecca

Immediately after our marriage we were to relocate to London, so the prospect of an indulgent honeymoon had me – a bit excited.

I had hoped that we might have gone to the UK via the Seychelles and lie in the sun, but instead Alhazmi insisted that he was taking his new wife on the Hadj, to Mecca, the religious centre of the Islamic world.

So, the journey had begun, and it was obvious that I had better get ready for the RIDE and expect the unexpected.

If you take you mind back, it was the 70s and we were as naive as the best of them.

We had a strong intentionality to explore this new spiritual adventure, one of the many religious and social constructs that Alhazmi went into head on in his quest for a life well-lived.

I was a young white woman with blue eyes cast downward and although I was fairly covered, I felt mighty conspicuous, this once hippy girl from Perth was now truly an international traveller.

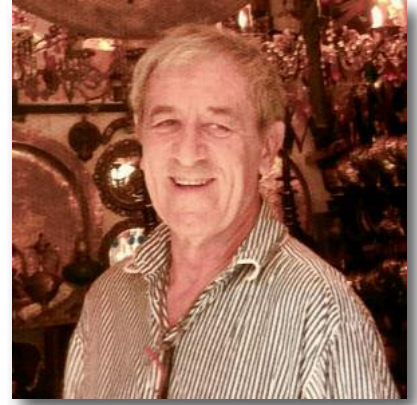
This medieval pilgrimage was an extraordinary experience and one that remains etched in my mind. It was as though we were transported back centuries, not as one would be now in the era of religious tourism, in 1974 it was NO frills and reeked of the ancient.

It was here that Alhazmi taught me the Muslim prayers and that I naturally began to develop a taste for the richness of the Islamic world.

I would now like to recite the Al-fatiha, for me it is like the Lord's Prayer and I do so in honour of Alhazmi

and the time we shared, growing up together.

*Bismillah ar-Rahman ar-Raheem  
Al hamdu lillaahi rabbil 'alameen  
Ar-Rahman ar-Raheem  
Maaliki yaumid Deen  
Iyyaaka na'abudu wa iyyaaka nasta'een  
Ihdinas siraatal mustaqeem  
Siraatal ladheena an 'amta' alaihim  
Ghairil maghduubi' alaihim waladaaleen  
Aameen...*



*Alhazmi.*

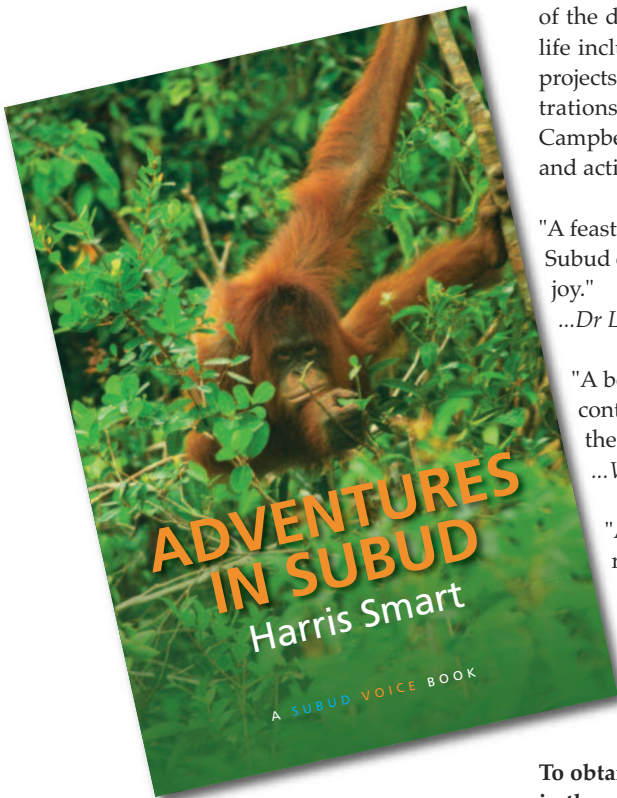
## DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL

*Alhazmi requested that this poem by Henry Scott-Holland should be read at his funeral...*

Death is nothing at all.  
It does not count.  
I have only slipped away into the next room.  
Nothing has happened.  
Everything remains exactly as it was.  
I am I, and you are you, and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged.  
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.  
Call me by the old familiar name.  
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference into your tone.  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.  
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.  
  
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.  
Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it.  
Life means all that it ever meant.  
It is the same as it ever was.  
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.  
What is this death but a negligible accident?  
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?  
I am but waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just round the corner.  
All is well. Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.  
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.  
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!

*Halimah also read this verse from  
Sappho at Alhazmi's graveside...*

Some say horsemen, some say warriors,  
Some say a fleet of ships is the loveliest  
Vision in this dark world.  
But I say,  
It's what you love.



*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 cartoons by Marcus Bolt and Dirk Campbell. It shows Subud as a dynamic movement combining spirituality and action in the world.

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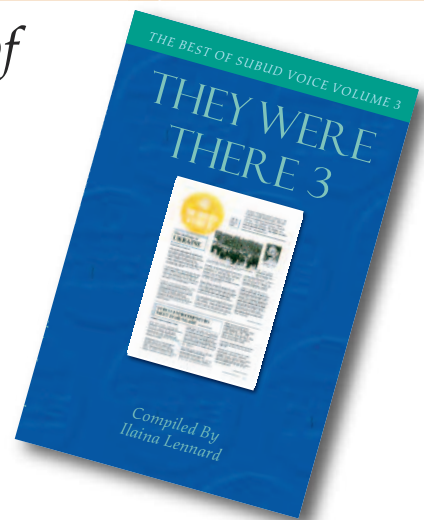
...*Hussein Rawlings*

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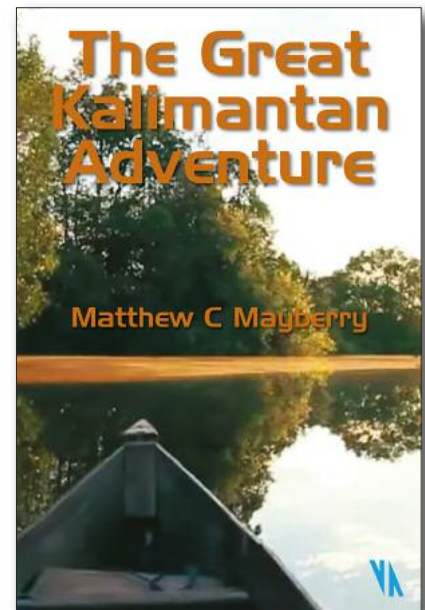
"Bapak can tell you that there is gold, there is silver, there are diamonds, there are many precious stones, there are other things like oil and so on. Bapak went to Kalimantan and met people in authority like the Governor of Central Kalimantan, who was stunned, he couldn't believe it. He said: 'How does Bapak know that in this place there is that and in this place there is this and so on?' And Bapak said 'Oh. I didn't learn it anywhere, I know it from myself'."

*Talk at Slough, UK, 4 April 1981*

*"This book is about my impressions and personal experiences while leading six expeditions (May 1982 to July 1986) in exploring for gold and other minerals. These expeditions were the highlight of my professional life, and the area was legendary, especially in the villages known to the Dayak people as Data Hotap." Matthew C Mayberry*

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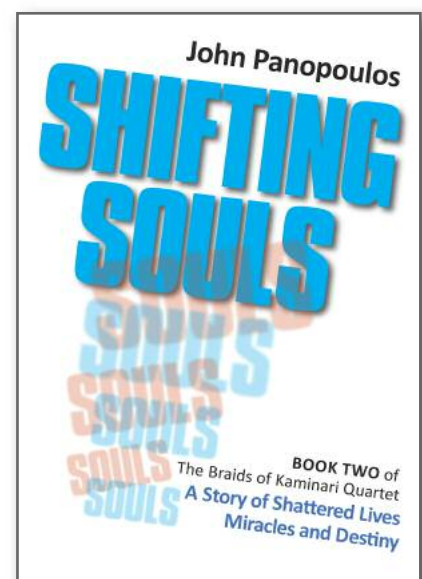
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