



## Twenty One Today

*Harris Smart celebrates 21 years as the editor of Subud Voice...*



2021 was a tough year for us all, wasn't it? As was 2020. As well as all the usual problems (invasions, explosions, palpitations, incarcerations, deprivations, politicians, the Rise of the East and the Decline of Western Civilization etc.) we had this worldwide pandemic.

Thank God, they do not come around too often. But I am not going to go on about the pandemic. We have all been through it, we have all had our collective experience. So, I will just leave it here for a moment for you to reflect on how the pandemic has been for you and your family. No doubt some suffered deeply, while others got off are likely. I invite you to reflect.

The pandemic has caused this huge split within society. Practically worldwide. Those who believe in the VAX, who follow what the government says as our best hope, and those who don't believe in the VAX, and don't trust the government at all. Who would have thought such a deep, passionate and widespread division should arise? Some people are predicting that this division will be World War Three. So that's something to look forward to!

Never before have I heard so many people talking about the end of the world. There are always some people talking about it, but recently it has become much more common and fashionable. Some are saying that all the signs are here, all laid out just as they are in the Book of Revelations, >

### 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 button which is located in the toolbar at the top of the page. [www.subudvoice.net](http://www.subudvoice.net)

that we are at the end of time. The world is coming to an end, just like in a Hollywood movie.

I would just like to thank all our readers who have sustained us over these 21 years by their generous donations. We plan to continue for another 21 years. (Let me think, how old will I be then, 79 Plus 21 makes 100. Oh, I will be 100, that's not so bad... There will be a telegram from the Queen...)

I have completed 21 years as editor of Subud Voice and before me there was the founder, Ilaina Lennard, who did 16 years at the coal face. What longevity we have as an entity in Subud! Perhaps we are amongst the last entities are left standing.

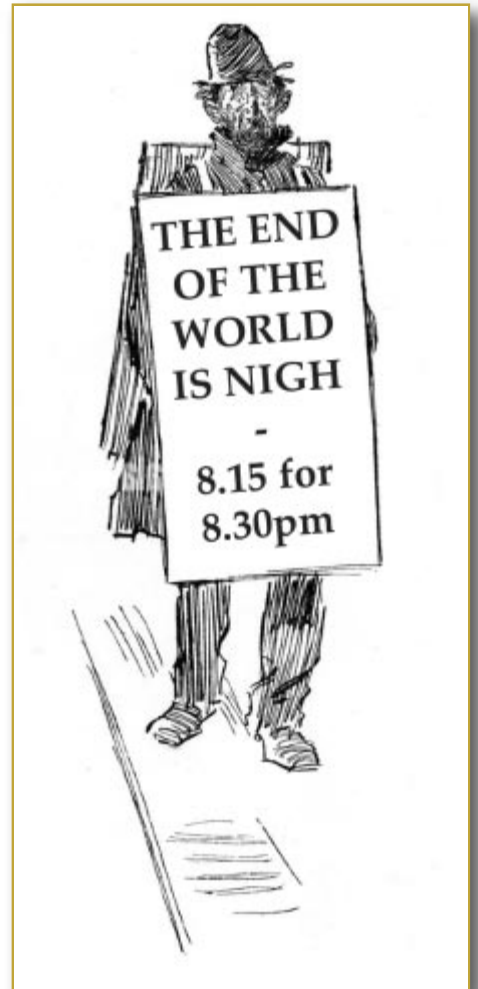
It is just as well that Rahman Connolly decided to make a review of the growth and development of Subud. He invited many people to write to him about their views and so on. Now this has all been collected together, and we are proud to bring it to you in this New Year's edition of Subud Voice. What an excellent way to begin the New Year, reading about growth and development in Subud.

Well, I don't know if we have really reached the end of time, but I know I have reached the end of the space allotted to me to for my editorial. So, I will close by saying...

Remember friends, as Eleanor Roosevelt remarked, "Better to light a candle than rail against the darkness."

Thank you for supporting our candle-making enterprise with your donations in the 21 years we have been alight. Apart from that, a Happy New Year to you all... *From Harris, Marcus and Kitka.*

**21 YEARS AT 12 ISSUES A YEAR, THAT MAKES 252 ISSUES IN TOTAL, AT AN AVERAGE 12000 WORDS AN ISSUE MAKES 3,024,000 WORDS... JUST OVER 3 MILLION WORDS!** ●



## DONATE TO SUPPORT SUBUD VOICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Harris Smart, Editor of Subud Voice

## TO KEEP US GOING FOR ANOTHER YEAR (IN AUSTRALIAN \$)

Bank charges & administration	\$600
Printing	\$400
Travel (to Subud events)	\$1000
Internet (including webmaster)	\$800
Phone	\$400
Proofreading	\$1200
Design & Layout	\$4200
Software & Hardware	\$1100
Honorarium	\$2500

**Total AU\$12,000**

(Equivalent to US\$8170, Pound Sterling £6169, Euro E7243)  
It would be great if you could donate at least AU\$60  
(US\$40, Pound Sterling £30, Euro E36)

*You can donate by going to the PAYMENTS tab at the top of our home page [www.subudvoice.net](http://www.subudvoice.net) Donate by Credit Card or PayPal (PayPal is an absolutely safe, secure and trustworthy way to send money.)*



## THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF SUBUD

*Harris Smart introduces the Growth of Subud. Subud members express their opinions about the state and future of Subud and what needs to be done about them, edited and compiled by Rahman Connelly. To read the complete document click this link or read this introduction first <https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Growth-of-Subud.pdf>*

A few years ago, I reprinted the book Sixteen Steps, which had first been published in the 1980s. I took some copies of the book into the Theosophical Bookshop which is the best shop in Melbourne for books about spirituality. I asked the manager if they would carry my book on their shelves.

He looked at it and asked, "Subud? Is that still around?"

I guess in the 1950s when Subud first appeared in the West there wasn't that much competition from other spiritual movements. Of course, there was yoga, and other forms of practice, but not like the New Age explosion of today. Now, alas, it appears that Subud has all but disappeared, crowded out by all the other tasty dishes on the spiritual smorgasbord.

**Plus...**

A lot of people who are still in Subud feel somewhat depressed about it. This can be traced right back to the Subud Congress held in Cilandak in 1971 when Bapak initiated that great movement for us to develop really big successful projects in the world.

Before that, Subud members had created enterprises, but they were usually small and worthy such as bookshops and health food restaurants, activities thought to be suited to the nature of spiritual people, but now Bapak was talking about banks and office blocks and concrete factories. Big enterprises that could employ many people and be successful on a large scale

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## Major Projects...

And from that source followed so much. And for a while we were very optimistic. We thought we were going to do great things and show them to the world and the world would be impressed and many people would want to join Subud.

And so, we embarked on Bank BSB, and then the S Widjojo building, and then Anugraha, and then a plethora of other projects all around the world such as Project Sunrise in Australia and Pur-nama in Japan, of which the only ones left standing now are our projects in Kalimantan.

It did work for a while. I know from what happened in Sydney in Project Sunrise. For a while Project Sunrise was looking really good and everyone knew about it and the highest in the land were attracted to it. The partner from Price Waterhouse who came to do the audit joined Subud and left Price Waterhouse.

The Premier of New South Wales, met with Ramdan Simpson and government decisions about landmark bridges were reversed, made more creative, made more humane, because of the influence of Project Sunrise. Only problem is it didn't last. It came and it went. Now there is not even a plaque anywhere in Darling Harbor saying "Subud was here. We started all this..."

Now each of these projects has its individual story and some had success of a kind or for a while, but generally speaking it is fair to say that there has been considerable disappointment. The projects did not all work out the way we hoped they would. They tended to start well, but then lose their way. Financially on the whole they didn't make money; they consumed money.

## Disappointment...

So, all this led to something of a malaise of disappointment which persisted from the 20th century into the 21st. This combined with other factors such as it was clear that young people were not coming into Subud, generally speaking, and Subud was an ageing, shrinking population.

At first no one dared say, "I am a bit depressed about Subud". But gradually this complaint has been heard more and more often and solitary voices have become a chorus.

Now an initiative to address this situation has come from Rahman Connolly, who is well known for his work in Subud as chair of MSF and many other functions. Along with Bradford Temple he created the enterprise Connolly Temple which must surely be one of the copybook examples of how enterprises are supposed to work, to be successful and make money.

Now he has invited people to say what they believe will address our situation and provide positive ways forward for the growth and development of Subud. A number of people have responded to his request. We present the full document to you as an attachment to this issue of Subud Voice.

There is of course great diversity, but also one can detect some common threads. One point of view which comes up again and again is the idea that "you are Subud and Subud is you". And that the only way Subud will ever grow is when we become truly exemplary of the values and qualities that Subud is supposed to represent.

This idea is also supported by statements which frequently come from Bapak and Ibu that there is nothing we can do about the spread of support, and it can only be left in the hands of God.

But there is another view that Subud can be reinvigorated, and people drawn to it by our human effort in this world. There was a clear feeling in with those major projects that one of their aims was to be a very public declaration of Subud which would attract people to it. And of course, some would argue that by creating enterprises, welfare projects and cultural projects is the best way to bring people to it

## AN OVERVIEW...

Rahman Connolly has asked me to write an overview of the responses he has received.

The first thing to say is that some things are not mentioned. Or hardly mentioned. For instance, there are not many mentions that advertising and propaganda are not the right way to spread Subud.

So, this is encouraging, it seems that it is almost universally understood that we do not spread by propaganda.

Another thing that is not mentioned is that there is no advice to the organisation. No one has writ- >

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ten from the point of view of advising the Nahum Harlap about how to do his job. No one has written to suggest what is the role of the organisation in all this.

I guess in these straitened times, we look for it to our organisation for protecting our core, not for being innovative and experimental. We expect the organisation to hold to the core values and the core assets. To protect and maintain them.

So, what does get mentioned.

I would say overwhelmingly if you wanted to take a message from this collection of documents, the strongest thing it has to say, the thing that is most often said, is that Subud is only going to spread when we become examples of what we are supposed to be according to Susila, Budhi and Dharma..

If being exemplary Subud members is the first advice, the second is that there is a role for attracting people to Subud by the example of our efforts. Indeed, as exemplary Subud members, we should be doing enterprises welfare projects and so on.

So, it is not a contradiction, inactivity on the one hand, activity on the other. It is more two sides of the same coin, complimentary approaches, inner and outer.

Of course, in this context the organisation supports those entities within Subud, provides a base foundation upon which these other more experimental and innovatory entities can be at work and play.

So, if we want clear advice it is, become an exemplary Subud member, out of whom the light of the latihan shines. This will attract people to Subud. Or a second way to do it, is to not only be exemplary inside, but also to use your talent to manifest Subud in the world. Then Subud will grow. It will grow in an organic God-approved way. It will grow like a character grows, or a tree grows. It will grow as a natural outcome of what we do and who we are.

There are some other additional pieces of advice.

Following the advice of Bapak and Ibu Rahayu is several times mentioned.

Be harmonious arises in a number of the extracts.

One or two people mention education.

A number of people wrote about the difficulty they have in taking about Subud and their tendency to avoid doing so – , balanced by one member who has brought around 100 people into Subud. He explains how he talked about Subud, both content of what said and the manner which he related to people.

So, the collection closes with a piece by Osanna Vaughan who can always be relied upon to say something interesting. And as a former chair of the WSA, who better qualified to speak? In her opinion, there is an element of mystery about it all...

## SOME EXAMPLES...

### Mysterious

*Osanna Vaughn, Germany*

The question of the spread of Subud is, to me, a big mystery...

I certainly think there are a few things we could try not to do: we could try not to be secretive, embarrassed or give ourselves airs. And we should be careful not to be dismissive about the amazing gift that is the latihan.

While we Subud members are just normal people, with the same kind of issues as anyone else, no better and no worse, the latihan is another matter – quite distinct from us. It truly is a miracle.

Just think of the fact, for example, that people of different religions, beliefs, walks of life, political opinions, etc., can actually worship together in the same room, without any animosity. Outside the hall may be different, but inside, if we surrender to the miracle, there is no conflict. Wow!

### First, grow Subud within Subud

*Rusdi Bustillo, Columbia/Indonesia*

I had a very strong receiving at the World Congress in Spokane when we tested something like "What should we do in order to spread the Latihan in the world?" My receiving back then was that >

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we needed to spread the Latihan first within Subud. That gave me the realisation that unless I as a Subud member understand and receive the Latihan properly, I will not be able to put it into practice in the outer world and bring in results that can be seen in a way that will make Subud grow.

### Living Proof

*Rahman Connelly, Australia*

I tested: what is my role and responsibility for the growth and development of Subud? In essence, the answer was that I need to strive to become living proof of the efficacy of the latihan by showing its benefits in the world. There is nothing new in what I received. It simply reflects Bapak's advice that Subud will grow via 'proof not propaganda'; that people no longer want to just 'believe', they want to experience something that can bring tangible benefits to their lives.

### Stay true to the latihan

*Elias Coragem Dumit, Brazil*

I have been wondering about this subject along with considerations of the timing, the moment humankind is facing right now. I realise the importance for us to stay true to the latihan, stick to it and do not allow the world to gaslight our faith. Particularly in a world driven by stories and narratives, we need to find our own truth and be able to live it.

### Is this possible, or is it too soon for this to occur?

*Mahmud Nestman, Canada*

The last questions that are with me are: "How can Subud grow?" "What can Subud members do, if anything, to facilitate this growth?" An answer came to me when I was reflecting on the talk Sharif Horthy gave in Kalingrad on August 8th, 2019. Sharif said that Bapak had shared with him that the life of each prophet is a pattern for their followers. The thought that came to me was "Subud can grow if we follow in the footsteps of Bapak." In Bapak's talks, he has said that he wasn't a prophet, he was a "channel" or a "receiver".

It seems to follow that Subud can spread if we are channels of the grace of God which we receive through our latihan. So, the way in which we can contribute to the growth of Subud is through our receiving in our latihan and the manifestation of our receiving in our daily lives. It comes back to our latihan and our capacity to receive through our latihan. Back to the basics. People will be attracted to the latihan through our reflection of the results of our latihan in our daily life.

Is this possible, or is it an unrealistic expectation, or is it too soon for this to occur?

TO READ THE COMPLETE DOCUMENT, CLICK HERE

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Growth-of-Subud.pdf>

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## AUSTRALIAN TV SERIES ROCKETS TO THE MOON WITH SPACEX AND NASA

Art TV show, Put Some Colour in Your Life, managed by Natascha Wernick (SUBUD member) received the exciting news that all 22 seasons of their TV art documentaries will be included in the Lunar Codex or "the Museum on the Moon", rocketed via the Astrobotic Griffin / NASA VIPER ROVER / SpaceX Falcon Heavy mission headed to the Lunar South Pole due to land in 2023.

Graeme Stevenson OAM, CEO and founder of Colour in Your Life was over the moon when payload coordinator and curator Dr. Samuel Peralta (Physicist), confirmed that all of



*Natascha behind the camera.*

>

the nearly 300 artists who have been filmed over the past 12 years in seven countries will be represented.

Put Some Colour in Your Life TV show based in Murwillumbah, Northern NSW, Australia, films 24-minute TV art documentaries about artists in their studios and then distributes the show to TV networks in over fifty countries, to many online streaming services and Smart TV apps.

“When I was a girl my Grandmother would say to me reach for the stars you may land on the moon and now it is happening! It is just out of this world”, Natascha exclaimed.

“When we began this business back in 2009, the vision was to build a library of the minds of artists, preserving a digital record of creative spirit, culture, and techniques for future generations”, Natascha explained, “We had no idea that the library would be kept on the moon. It is just mind blowing!”

“The Lunar Codex – [www.lunarcodex.com](http://www.lunarcodex.com) – is a project to preserve contemporary creative arts for future generations, a message-in-a-bottle to the future,” explained Dr. Samuel Peralta, creator of the enterprise. “It is sending the work of 5000+ creative artists to the Moon in three lunar exhibits / time capsules to be launched via three separate missions to the Moon over 2021-2023.”

Colour in Your Life will be joining the Polaris Collection, on the third mission and is mentioned in the Peregrine collection in the first mission.

Polaris data will be on nickel-shielded memory cards. The Colour in Your Life archive will join other short and full-length films already included in the time capsule, including several feature films and short films, documentaries, and an Emmy Award winning film.

Some Colour in Your Life artists included in this collection are Subud Member Marie France Rose, Ken Done, Joseph Zbukvic, Alvaro Castagnet, Janet Knight, Celia Moriarty, Justine Martin, Christine Broersen, Kate Jenvey and more.

You can see the full list here:

<https://www.colourinyourlife.com.au/featured-artists/>

“Our hope is that future travellers who find these time capsules will discover some of the richness of our world today,” Dr. Samuel Peralta said. “The Lunar Codex speaks to the idea that, despite wars and pandemics and climate upheaval, humankind found time to dream, time to create art.”

If you are interested in being filmed by Colour in Your Life TV show, Natascha is happy to chat, or read more here <https://www.colourinyourlife.com.au/>



*Graeme Stevenson with artist Alvaro Castagnet whose works will be amongst those travelling to the moon.*



*Rocket lander locations on the moon. (from Lunar codex)*



*Space X Falcon Rocket (from Space X)*



*Assets will be transported to locations on the dark side of the moon. (from NASA Ames Daniel Rutter)*

# INTERNATIONAL VOICE COMPETITION

Anja Roger interviews Diana & Boris Martinovich, opera singers, teachers, directors, artists, producers, entrepreneurs and creator of the International Voice Competition... Anja writes...

Art & Culture in the time of Corona... does humanity need art & culture?

The Covid virus has affected all the people around the world in different ways, but somehow it seems to me that what is most vulnerable are certainly culture and art, because they are closely related to all that makes us human - closeness, intimacy, socialization, creativity, art.

But whether this is really the case and whether culture and art are losing the battle in the war with the Covid virus, I talked to Diana Martinovich, opera singer, cultural manager, director, professors entrepreneur and wife of the world famous opera singer and director Boris Martinovich.

Currently the Second International Voice competition named after Boris Martinovich is accepting applications. How was this project created and in a what way is it different from the other competitions?

*Diana Martinovich:* The idea to design and organize a competition named after my husband Boris Martinovich has been around for many years, and it was born as my need to pay a tribute to my husband's truly great world opera career.

When I finally decided to start the competition – Covid came. I had two choices – to give up and to wait for "a better time" or to take a risk and try to find a solution that would make the competition sustainable. Since I am not a person who gives up easily, I decided to take my chance and to go on with the competition.

The difference was that the competition is held online in the first two rounds and the singers are applying by sending us videos of their recorded performances, while in the final round the singers were singing live and online-from their own houses and other places in the live broadcast.

The final round reached more than 7000 watchers and it was a huge success.

Currently, the Second International Voice Competition Boris Martinovich is accepting applications for its second online edition. Hopefully, when the Corona ends, we will be able to organize it in a real place and online.

*You are the creator of the Summer Opera School and Festival in Zadar, Croatia. What inspired you to create this project and what can you tell us about it?*

*DM:* The Summer Opera School and Festival in the beautiful Croatian town of Zadar, at the Adriatic sea, is an intensive educational program constructed of voice technique and opera masterclasses for singers, held by world famous opera-stars singers. In 2022, the masterclasses will be held by famous Mr.Fabio Armiliato - tenor, Mrs.Svetla Vassileva - soprano, Mr.Boris Martinovich and myself.

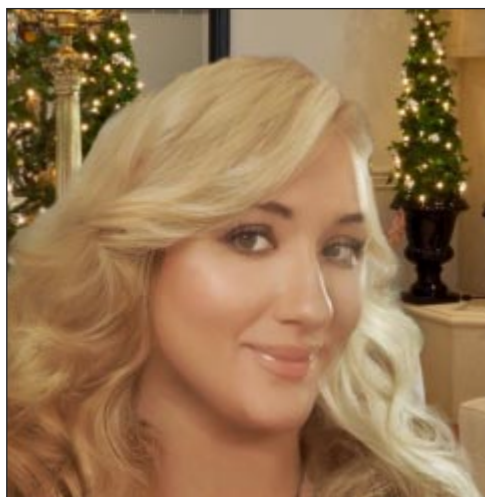
We will have one concert with student participants in the production, Opera Gala, with the star singers and orchestra and of the opera Il Barbiere di Sevilla by G. Rossini with students participants as the main singers.

The aim was to create program that will help young singers-artists to find and get professional development.

At the same time we are giving our contribution



*Boris Martinovich.*



*Diana Martinovich.*



*My need to pay a tribute to my husband's truly great world opera career...*





to the classical music and opera audience development, which is also something that is very important for music, culture and art.

*You are also an opera singer, voice teacher, author of the Opera Chat with Martinovich couple, but also the president of the 7Arts Company and Vice-president of the 7Arts Association for the promotion of Art and Culture. Can you tell us the main projects that your companies are doing and with what purpose?*

**DM:** I am very proud to say that both, 7Arts company and 7Arts Association today are among the leading organizational, production and streaming companies worldwide. They offer a variety of Classical Music, Opera, Movie, Art, Culture & Entertainment services management and productions.

Among our projects I would definitely like to highlight the Competition, Online masterclasses for singers held by me and my husband Boris Martinovich, the Summer School and Festival, the Opera Chat with Martinovich couple live-streaming talk show. Currently we are running the New World opera stars in virtual concerts - virtual concert series where singers from all over the world are performing entire concerts online, from their homes and living rooms. These concerts are distributed online and worldwide.

*What are you planning for the future?*

**DM:** Besides the Festival and the Summer School, we are preparing a Music for Peace project, which continues the International Bridges of Music - the project that was created with the aim to use music, culture and art as the triggers for building peace and mutual cooperation and understanding between countries and people affected by war. International bridges of music project was created for the people of western Balkan countries (the ex-Yugoslavian countries) and it was a huge success.

Music for Peace is the large world-project. It is our response to the current situation in the world as the result of the pandemic, economic crisis and wars.

The project consists of the world-tour of concerts of my husband Boris Martinovich and other world famous opera singers, his friends, celebrating at the same time 50 years of his professional career.

The idea is to include artists and musicians from every city where the concerts will be organized, with the involvement of young people and musicians, celebrating peace, human rights, diversity, trust and understanding. The tour is planned in the USA, Europe, Russia, China and Japan.

I think now more than ever humanity needs Culture, Music and Art, just to remind us what does it mean to be a HUMAN and to act like a HUMAN.

### Brief Bios...

Boris Martinovich is the world-famous American opera singer, bass-baritone and opera director. His biography: [www.boris-martinovich.com](http://www.boris-martinovich.com)

Diana Martinovich, his wife, is classical music and opera singer, voice teacher, cultural manager, >



*Boris and Diana perform together.*



*International Voice Competition.*



*Julie Dauchez Diabaete.*

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director and producer. Her biography: Diana Martinovich - mezzo-soprano | Boris Martinovich ([boris-martinovich.org](http://boris-martinovich.org))

### ADDITIONAL VIDEOS

This is one of the masterclasses : [https://youtu.be/TyOm\\_1VnrBM](https://youtu.be/TyOm_1VnrBM)

This here is one of the episodes of the Opera Chat with Martinovich Couple with famous Fabio Armiliato and Davide La Bollite ( opera director and manager): <https://youtu.be/5dxA5nRCXvg>

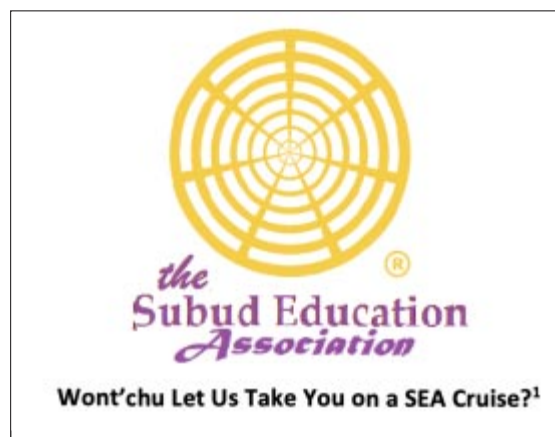
This is the announcement video of the International Voice Competition Boris Martinovich: <https://youtu.be/lxXEJ6ml3vk> (the handsome guy who sings at the very beginning of the video is Boris Martinovich :))

And one video of both of us singing together: <https://youtu.be/ns7LdXXK8zg> ●

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## SEA REVIEW

The Subud Education Association (SEA) which started its monthly meetings in January 2020 perseveres with its wonderful team: Salamah LeClaire, Garrett Thomson, Halimah Polk, Harris Roberts, Faustina Ramos Coco-Pfeiffer, Arnaud Delune (Subud Education Fund), Hadrian Pollard (CEO) and Rasunah Marsden (Chair). This is a 'dream team' of individuals who steadily contribute their talents and expertise. We all feel that the Subud experience has important implications for education, its culture and for teachers' relationships with students.



You may know that SEA is an activity project & partner of SDIA. In the first year the SEA team worked on infrastructure and identifying the scope of its activities and relationships with WSA, SDIA, educators and schools. As times have changed with Covid-19, we very much appreciate the willingness and courage of Subud committees worldwide to do Subud work and move forward in the face of the pandemic, floods, droughts, fires, and travel restrictions.

Through 2021, we worked on broader engagement with our SEA membership worldwide. Developing communications through monthly newsletters and zoom workshops, and establishing two subcommittees to work on the Subud Education Fund and the Education Consultant Group were two of the highlights of the year.

The topics of our zoom presentations included Danica & Leonardo Wild's Pedagogical Approach, Human-Centered Education with Garrett Thomson, and Puppetry With Erica Sapir.

The good news we received today from Garrett Thomson was that Sharif Horthy has confirmed as the keynote speaker for the upcoming SEA AGM. The second bit of wonderful news came from Hamida Thomas, SDIA: "Just want to share with you the good news that the MSF has confirmed a contribution of \$5000 to the Subud Education Fund!"

For the AGM we have interesting news from Amanecer about the project being developed there with the input of the wings – SDIA, SICA, SES, SEA. We also plan testing breakout groups and a discussion about Talent, along with ways stimulate entrepreneurship in the field of Education. Here is what we have in the works for the AGM [2]:

NOTES: [1] (reference to Sir Cliff Richard's rendition of the song, "Sea Cruise": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkVPA9UmHIE> )

[2] The posted times on the slides are for Eastern Time, USA (see next page).

SEA is still looking for a Communications person to join the team. While our pace can seem slow at times, the workload is fairly steady and we would be especially pleased to address calls to respond to new opportunities as they arise for Subud Educators, whether in relation to individual projects or collective needs.

You are highly welcome to join the SEA team in our efforts, through whichever contributions >

## SEA AGM 2022 OVERVIEW

### Saturday January 29th

9:05 - 9:20 Introduction to SEA

9:20 - 10:20 Keynote: Sjarif Horthy: Bapak & Education

10:20 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - 11:30 Breakout Groups: Education & the Latihan

11:30 - 12:00 Reporting to the Plenary

## SEA AGM 2022 OVERVIEW

### Sunday January 30th

9:05 - 9:30 Training for Human Centered Education

9:30 - 10:20 Breakout Groups: Human Centered Education & Talent

10:20 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - 11:30 Panel & Discussion: Education & Entrepreneurship

11:30 - 12:00 Next Steps for SEA

(efforts or donations) you may be poised to make. Let us know if you are interested to act on behalf of SEA nationally, or want to be sure you receive the SEA newsletter, or want to send in an application for educational support, or need a SEA AGM zoom invite, or would like explore any project ideas further. Please feel free to forward any suggestions to Hadrian Pollard, CEO:

[hadrian.pollard@gmail.com](mailto:hadrian.pollard@gmail.com) or to Rasunah Marsden, Chair at [rasunah@shaw.ca](mailto:rasunah@shaw.ca)

## PROJECT IN BURKINA FASO

*From Subud France newsletter 20 December 2021...*

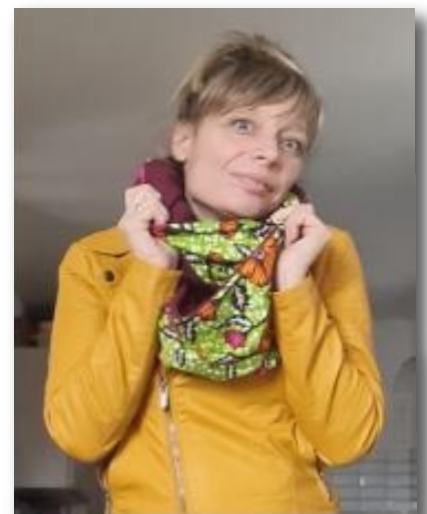
*Julie Dauchez Diabaté writes...*

For this edition, it is important to me to give the floor to Julie who works by uniting all her talents in a humanitarian project

Painter, dancer and a Subud member, I live in Forcalquier, Provence, France. I am married to a Burkinabé artist, Kanazoé Diabaté from the music group Kanazoé Orkestra, and we travel to Burkina Faso regularly.

Together we have created an association in Burkina Faso, Faso Demissenou Association (Children of Faso), to help with education and hospitalisation for the most disadvantaged children.

I feel very touched by the difficulties of these people, and I feel deep inside my being the need to invest myself in creating a bond of solidarity between the village of my husband and our place of residence in France.



*Summer Camp.*



I have been practicing Latihan for 20 years, and I always felt through the latihan that painting was my path.

Today I want to regroup my art and my charitable project in Burkina.

I undertook to sell in the local Christmas markets my paintings (small and large formats) of which 10% of my sales are donated to the association Faso Demissenou and as well as the creations of snoods, potholders and African fabric bags made by a friend who wishes to participate in this initiative.

I am happy to present my project to you via the following photos hoping to find support and encouragement to continue this united momentum.

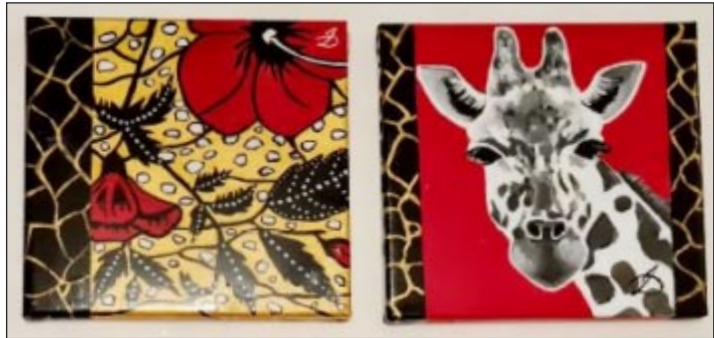
Please contact me if you wish to acquire our creations.

Wishing you all the best for your Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Facebook: Julie Dauchez Diabeté: Instagram : Julie Dauchez Diabate

See Kanazoé playing the Balafon with Kanazoé Orkestra:

<https://www.kanazoe-orkestra.com/>



## ISSUES IN TRANSLATION

*Issues affecting the translation of the words “consensus” and “prihatin”...*

### 1. CONSENSUS AND SUBUD

*Marcus Bolt writes about consensus in Subud... including an explanation from Sharif Horthy about issues in translation surrounding this word...*

‘Consensus’ is a difficult word. In most languages it can mean anything from ‘general agreement’ (in the sense that most people agree, but are aware a minority don’t), through to ‘unanimity’ (in legal/contractual terms).

There are 4 Bapak Talks where the Translation Team use the English word (also 2 Talks by Ibu Rahayu: 04 TKL 2 and 04 TYO 4). Bapak never uses the Indonesian for contractual style consensus (*konsensus*), but *musyawarah* (meeting, conference, discussion, deliberation, consultation, negotiation, forum) in the other 3 talks.

In reply to an ‘out of interest’ query about this, Sharif Horthy a member of the Translation Team currently in Indonesia responded:

*“The word you are asking about is musyawarah. The word is imported into Indonesian from Arabic, and it basically means: meeting, conference, discussion, deliberation, consultation, negotiation, forum.*

*“As used above (ie in quote sent from Volume 18, page 141, Talk 67 NYC 2), that is what it means, and if we translated it as ‘consensus’, we apologise, we feel that is wrong, since not all meetings lead to consensus, and we do not have the feeling that Bapak is implying here that the*

helpers must first reach consensus before they answer a question.

*“The complication here is that musyawarah has also acquired a more formal, specifically Indonesian meaning, of a meeting leading to consensus, usually referred to as musyawarah mufakat.*

*“This was adopted by the founding fathers of modern Indonesia as the fourth pillar of Pancasila, the state philosophy, and is expressed as follows: ‘Democracy guided by the inner wisdom in the unanimity arising out of deliberations among representatives.’ (Translation taken from Google.)*

*“Traditionally this is implemented like a village meeting, where a trusted leader listens to all the points of view and then says, ‘OK, this is what we will do.’ It has been used occasionally to support Indonesia’s ‘soft’ dictatorships under Soekarno and Suharto, with the argument that voting, as practiced in the ‘West’ is anti-democratic as it ignores the views of minorities.*

*“After saying all that, the fact is that elections in Indonesia are by majority vote, just as they are everywhere else.*

*“Moving on to Bapak’s standard advice for governance in Subud, this was always based, not on musyawarah, but on rukun. In the talk we are currently translating, he describes rukun as ‘loving each-other, respecting each-other and helping each-other’.*

*“We used to translate rukun as ‘harmony’, but have noticed that the word was getting tired and had sometimes come to mean being polite but insincere, and avoiding conflict at all costs.*

*“The point we are trying to make is that if we are able to maintain an atmosphere of ‘loving each-other, respecting each-other and helping each-other’, then we will not feel the need to win arguments to maintain our rightness. That will enable us to solve conflicts that are bound to arise with clarity and precision and in a way that benefits everybody.”*

In ‘Advice and Guidance for Bapak’s Helpers’, page 134: ‘The Majority Decide’, Bapak says: “And when you test together you need to let the majority decide. For example, if there are twenty helpers and eighteen say it would be good for A to become a member but two say no, well, those two helpers have to give in, since their conclusion is less convincing than that of the eighteen.” 59 NYC 3

I don’t remember ever reading a talk where Bapak used the word ‘consensus’ in relation to committee matters. Maybe he hoped we would become a true theocracy one day!

## 2. THE REAL MEANING OF PRIHATIN

Halimah Brugger writes...

Emmanuel opened the last edition of Reminders of Reality with a quote from Mas Sudarto touching upon the nature of prihatin, in response to which I should like to share the following:

The literal meaning of prihatin is to prick the heart, hati meaning the heart. Mas Sudarto certainly knew the meaning of prihatin -- he had a very prihatin life -- but he spoke with very broken English. ‘Pricking’ the heart or nudging the heart might have come out as ‘stabbing’ the heart and suddenly it is interpreted as killing the heart.

The nuanced meaning of prihatin is to be very ‘careful’ in what we do, in what we say, and in what is in our thoughts. This is the real prihatin and is the way Bapak used the word prihatin. It is our fasting from food or sleep, or being deprived of it that pricks our heart to remind us to remember God and be very ‘careful.’

It was these kinds of honest errors in speaking English or in translating that brought my husband, Sofyan, to Bapak’s secretariat.

For example, the words exercise and exorcise were always getting mixed up. The Indonesians didn’t

At the time Sofyan was working at the BBC as language supervisor in the Indonesian/Malay section. Indonesia and Malaysia just happened to be at war with each other at that time, so there wasn’t much room for error! It was Varindra Vittachi who spoke to Bapak about bringing Sofyan to his Sekretariat.

Just checked with the boss. Sofyan confirms that to be prihatin or to do prihatin is to be very ‘careful’ in what we do or say, and in our thoughts. That is the real prihatin.

Halimah’s article first appeared in Reminders of Reality.

“ We will not feel the need to win arguments to maintain our rightness...”

“ The literal meaning of prihatin is to prick the heart...”

## FAREWELL MATTHEUS KASLAN

We only recently heard that our brother Mattheus Kaslan from Suriname, passed away on October 8, 2021. He was fifty six years old.

Mattheus was opened in Subud on March 25, 1983, and served as an International Helper for Area III from the Innsbruck World Congress in 2005, until Christchurch 2010. He is remembered as a gentle person with a delightful sense of humour, as well as possessing deep spirituality.

He is also remembered beyond Subud, "...a figure in the community. He was steadfast, knew what he wanted. He effaced himself, for the well-being and prosperity of his fellow man. A socially committed person." This was reflected in a restaurant he ran, which was visited by many people with mental disabilities, who were given free meals.

Mattheus was also an avid, talented and creative chess player, who co-founded the CSV (Surinamese Chess Federation) in 1983 and went to 3 Chess Olympiads. "A very sympathetic and friendly and person, always with a smile on his face," as one of his fellow chess-players said.

Some of the Surinamese Subud members have made a song and music video in Mattheus's memory, that they would like to share with us: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g\\_2zS4\\_oIOA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_2zS4_oIOA)

Furthermore, you can watch this photo collection shown at his memorial.

Memorial video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDhtSRHQ1Z4>

We pray that Mattheus's ongoing journey is truly blessed.



*Mattheus Kaslan.*

## THE MUSHROOM GUY

*Hamilton Pevec writes from Colorado, USA...*

I have spent my career making films, primarily for other people and their causes or businesses. Every once in a while I get to make a film that falls into the category of "passion project".

Normally what that means is it is your own film, often without a budget, often without anyone to answer to but your inner self and creative drive. Needless to say these passion projects are the ones that are the most satisfying, the most interesting and often the most well made. As they arise from a need to make them, not a need for income or influence.

I became a mushroom enthusiast or mycophile in 2009 and was immediately swept away by the mystery of mushrooms as I attempted to demystify them by learning everything I could.

After 13 years of hunting mushrooms all over the world, growing them, ingesting them, experimenting with them, and ultimately healing myself with them, I am now totally "in bed" with them.

People or organizations invite me to lead mushroom hunts, and I regularly get text messages with requests for identification. I have become a resource for many who are discovering mushrooms themselves. Being in this position as a "mushroom guy" has led to me becoming a international mushroom extract broker, where I now consult for a number of different international brands.

In early 2020 I escaped from Nepal right before Nepal closed its borders and I was sent directly into quarantine. In my little trailer, separated from my wife and daughter, I unearthed a project that



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I had shot in 2013. The footage was of a mushroom hunt that I went on, high above treeline in the Annapurna region of the Nepalese Himalaya.

We were hunting a rare and precious parasitic mushroom called *Ophiocordyceps sinensis*. A very valuable medicinal mushroom that attacks the ghost moth caterpillar larvae. Watch my film *Suklals Hunt* to learn more about it.

We spent two days up there with my brother-in-law and his small group of local foragers. It was very interesting for me, and 9 years later I thought it was time to make the film proper.

As I put the film together, two things became obvious to me: one, I was sitting on a really cool film; two, making this film was deeply satisfying. It came together perfectly, and it touched on my two talents, filmmaking and mycology. Then it hit me, I thought to myself, why don't I just make mushroom movies all the time? The short answer is that there is little to no funding for this line of work. What if I started a direct to consumer medicinal mushroom company to finance these films?

Seems reasonable enough. So that is what I did. I have tapped into the mushroom renaissance that has been rising for the last few years, I have tapped into my love and knowledge of mushrooms, and I have tapped into my skills as a film producer to combine them all.

<https://hamiltonsmushrooms.com>

is the result of these efforts. The biggest passion project to date! It is born of my love for these things and I'm betting that something will come of it! This effort is the closest thing I have done to a Subud enterprise, and I appreciate my Subud brothers and sisters for their curiosity and support along the way. Do you have a mushroom story? Please allow me to help you share it.

*This article first appeared in [www.subudworldnews.com](http://www.subudworldnews.com)*

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## THE AFGHAN CHEF

*Sebastian Paemen writes...*

There's a trailer in Between Towns Road in Oxford which sells delicious Afghan food. The friendly owner told me the following story. He came to the UK as a refugee 14 years ago and started to work as a kitchen porter in an Italian restaurant in London doing the cleaning and washing up. The work was heavy and badly paid. He was doing long hours and his boss and other staff members treated him without respect.

The worst thing was when they sent him to the supermarket to buy food because he didn't know what many of these products

were. He had never seen broccoli and cherry tomatoes before, so he often came back with the wrong things for which he was scolded and ridiculed. Feeling humiliated and lonely he was sometimes brought to despair. One day one of the waitresses took care of him and patiently explained what all the ingredients they used were. He wrote everything down. He also watched the chef preparing the Italian dishes, all of which were unfamiliar to him, and he carefully wrote down the recipes.

That summer the owner of the restaurant went on a two week holiday during which time the chef unexpectedly left. Panic struck and the staff was going to close the restaurant. The Afghan stopped them and took over, turning out pastas, pizzas, steaks, sauces, and all the other dishes, cooked to perfection as if he had never done anything else in his life, surprising everybody around him.

When the owner came back he was shocked to see the kitchen porter in charge of his restaurant and exclaimed, 'How on earth did you manage to do this?!' To which the Afghan answered, 'Well, I never told you this, but I am a trained chef and I used to work in one of the best restaurants in Kabul.' He ended up working as a chef in this Italian restaurant for 12 years. Two years ago he left because he felt that he wanted to cook Afghan food again and he is hoping to open a proper restaurant in Oxford soon.



# BOOKS ABOUT NATIVE AMERICANS

*James Robertshaw writes...*

Hello Harris

I thought you may be interested in this work completed this year, now available on e-books via Gardners wholesaler in the UK, contact your local bookstore.

*Hi James,*

*Thank you,,, can you give me any info about yourself? Are you in Subud? Cheers, Harris*

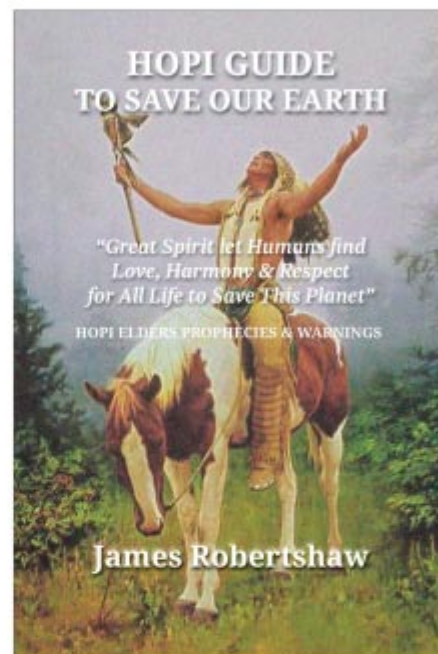
Hello Harris

Yes I'm in Subud, opened at Loudwater, currently in the Maidenhead group, was Subud Britain National Treasurer and Chair of the Oxford group; currently a trustee of SICA Britain with Marianna Lassalle

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# THE THREE PARADOXES OF SUBUD

*Sjahari Hollands asks... Is the Second Law of Thermodynamics actually playing itself out on the Subud field of action?*

## PARADOX ONE

The second law of thermodynamics states that in a closed system. It is the natural direction, and the natural way things evolve.

If it will soon cool. All the energy originally transferred to the water will distribute into the molecules of the air, and to the glass container. The energy will become so diverse and widespread that no heat will be felt again, and the temperature of the water will equal that of its surroundings.

Most systems are closed systems, but some are open. In an open system the energy inside the system has a chance to respond to changes imposed on it, and in fact that energy can be organized so that the system can grow and prosper.

An example of an open system is a human being, or even life itself. The process of evolution is also an open system. These ideas are universal rules of thumb for understanding how things work in this universe we live in. And these rules of thumb also apply to our human culture.

What are examples of closed systems? Something not open to change and to innovation; something that cannot respond to adverse experiences, because it does not allow change to happen.

One example of a closed system would be the traditional church. That church structure has traditionally had very strong views about the organization of things, and since it is all based on the Bible, there is no opportunity for change.

The Second Law of Thermodynamics predicts that such a closed system will simply deteriorate. It will grow old and ineffective and begin to dissolve unless it is able to incorporate criticism, change, conjecture. And indeed, many churches recognize this reality and are making these changes.

Subud is also a closed system. It is an organization that operates based on the guiding principles of its founder, and one of the prime objectives is to maintain those guiding principles unchanged. The belief is that these principles came directly from an All-Knowing Deity, and therefore must be inviolate.

If indeed the Subud organization is a closed system, the Second Law of Thermodynamics predicts that it has to be in a state of decline, which is inevitable.

Is this actually happening? Is the Second Law of Thermodynamics actually playing itself out on the Subud field of action? Are we seeing a steady aging and decline in membership?

Are we seeing an absence of excitement and life and creativity within its membership? Or are we seeing something that is growing and alive and responsive to change. Something that is ready and fit to survive in the modern world?

But here is the paradox...

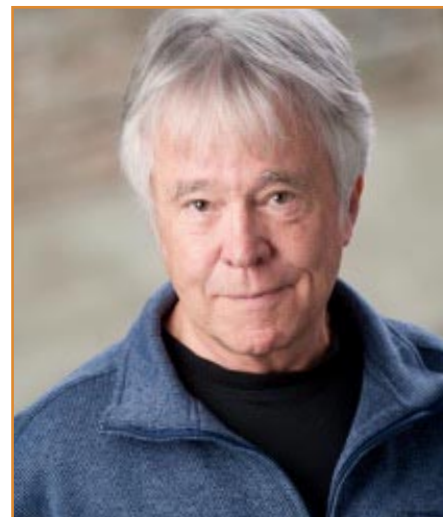
The core of Subud, its very foundation, is an Open System. The latihan itself. The latihan is a manifestation of life, and as such is fully responsive and open to change.

And since the latihan is an open system, it is not constricted by the Second Law of Thermodynamics. In fact, the energy that enters through the latihan contributes to growth and development, rather than diminishing.

This is the first paradox.

## PARADOX TWO

Subud's founder put a great deal of effort into insisting that Subud members not treat him as some kind of teacher or prophet. And when it came to organizational issues, at several points he recommended that Subud members respond to the needs for changes as they arose. He did not



“ Subud is also a closed system...” ”

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set down his recommendations in stone to be followed without question.

However, the membership has not been able to accept this. For the most part the members and the organization, have operated on the belief that the founder was in direct communication with an Almighty Anthropomorphic God and therefore his recommendations cannot be changed.

So, the second paradox is that Subud has become a closed system tied to its Founder's rules, while the founder himself clearly did not intend this.

### PARADOX THREE

Bapak came actually with two messages. On the one hand he talked about the latihan as a vibration. And all of creation as a vibration. Light. He talked about the origins of the universe, before time existed, before even God existed.

As he often said he knew things having never studied them, and these things correlate very well with what we now know, 70 years later, in modern physics. Quantum theory.

In modern theology these ideas are being incorporated extensively. Evolutional theology is at the forefront of modern Christianity and spiritual inquiry in general, as is Quantum theology. So Bapak was indeed WAY ahead of his time.

If Subud chose to emphasize this tract which is clearly laid out in many of Bapak's talks, we could easily relate to a lot of people today with their current concerns and ways of seeing the world. Young people in general see spiritual life in this way.

However, along with this amazing world view Bapak also introduced a cosmology based on traditional religious teaching and cultures: a world view based on the idea of an anthropomorphic interventionnel deity controlling the material world; where human beings are in need of purification of their many faults. . Young people today have difficulty relating to this world view.

Unfortunately, it is this second aspect of his message that the Subud organization has chosen to go with.

The third paradox.

*Sjahari Hollands writes...I was opened in Subud in 1967 and spent most of my life a mainline Subud practitioner.*

*Continued the latihan all these years as my primary spiritual practice. Became disillusioned with the organizational side around 15 -20 years ago for reasons as outlined in this article and detached myself from that aspect.*

*Over the past 3 years connected with a group of 8-10 likeminded guys who get together for weekly latihan and coffee and talk. All of us pretty much in agreement on the ideas in these articles. Most of us also really concerned about the future of the world. Post Doom.*

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## SUBUD? QUO VADIS?

*Edward Fido asks... Subud: Where are we going?*

Most of those of a certain age will remember the movie "Quo Vadis" where St Peter was asked this question and replied in an excellent Scottish accent. Perhaps that was because he was played by Finlay Currie.

In retrospect Subud strikes me a bit like that. Nothing is what you'd expect. After 50+ years since joining one blustery autumnal day in Melbourne, I sometimes still feel like I'm playing a long game of Snakes & Ladders.

COVID-19 and its spinoffs have affected the whole world, as have global warming and the threat of an armed clash between the USA and Communist China.

So, what is happening in the Subud world of 10,000+ souls? Well, I honestly don't know. I do know something of Subud Brisbane and its 40-odd souls and something at second hand of Subud Australia.

Subud Brisbane? If that were a koan, you'd answer it with "Mu!" and your Zen Master would tell you whether it was the correct or incorrect "Mu!" "A Mu just in words is not the real Mu!" as he or >

“ Are we seeing an absence of excitement and life within its membership? ”

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she strikes their gong to terminate the interview.

Subud, like Zen, is supposed to be beyond the mind, yet there seem to have been a surfeit of books trying to explain it recently. It is interesting that the only book on Subud Bapak himself ever praised was Ronimund von Bissing's "Songs of Submission".

The late Baron von Bissing was a genuine Renaissance man. He was also a Western European aristocrat. Educated at Charterhouse and Magdalen, he was extraordinarily well-connected and knew all sorts of people. He was quite high up in Gurdjieff and was instrumental in inviting Hussein Rofe to Cyprus and facilitating Bapak's first visit to London.

John Bennett tried to take on the St Paul mantle and wrote von Bissing out of the story. That was simply untrue. Bapak stayed with the von Bissings in Ireland and Ronimund was instrumental in introducing Subud to South Africa and elsewhere.

### [The best stuff...](#)

Much of the best stuff in Subud has gone unwritten. Some experiences are incommunicable. The words that could convey them don't exist. It's a bit like the reaction to the Transfiguration by those of Jesus' disciples who witnessed it. It really happened but was also deeply symbolic. They got a bit carried away with the symbolism.

That reminds me a bit of the Anglo-Catholic ceremonial, including what they used to call "Solemn Pontifical High Mass" at St Peter's, Eastern Hill, Melbourne at 11.00 am every Sunday, which I attended whilst a university student and newly opened in Subud.



[The sanctuary of St Peter's Anglican church Melbourne.](#)

### [An amazing experience...](#)

I had an amazing experience at St Peter's after receiving Communion at one of their smaller weekday Eucharists. It was as if my whole body had become alive. I was quite shaky. I had to go and sit down quietly in a nearby park for a while.

Later on, I got a chance to speak to the Rector, the late Father Geoffrey Taylor. He was most sympathetic and helpful, as are many clergy and assured me that this was quite normal and that he had encountered many people who had similar experiences in his ministry.

It is interesting that Fr Taylor did not talk to me about the long history of Western Christian Mysticism but confirmed my experience and supported me.

He did exactly the right thing. Very similar to what someone like the late Pak Sudarto of Cilandak, whom many would see as the archetypal Helper, would do. Fr Taylor, Pak Sudarto and Baron von Bissing all tried to keep it simple and down to earth.

**TO READ THE REST OF THIS ARTICLE, CLICK HERE**

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Fido-quo-vadis.pdf>

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## [THE SPORTS CAR, SAM AND I...](#)

*By Dahlan Simpson*

*Holiday reading... Dahlan Simpson recalls a happy moment involving a red sports car and a woman called Sam, every boy's dream. This story has nothing to do with Subud. I think it is good for us to acknowledge from time to time that there is another world out there. The narrator is referred to at one point as "Dale" which you might or might not think to be significant...*

I have always wanted a sports car and Friday was my lucky day. It was red, of course - an open top MG. Does life get any better?

I picked up the keys from the vendor that afternoon after my payment was cleared to his account, >

and immediately took it for a spin. My best buddy Samantha and I were going for a trip on the weekend, but I fancied a short spin on my own first. She and I will have plenty of fun together, but how could I wait for the first thrill of my MG? Impossible!

It didn't disappoint. Perhaps you can imagine the thrill of my first drive. It was sensational. But I would keep silent. I wasn't going to spoil anything for Sam!

Come Saturday morning around 9, I pulled up outside Sam's place and honked. She didn't keep me waiting, and never has.

She and I have had an amazing friendship over the years, more brother/sister than romantic, but you never knew if it could change. And if life has taught me anything, it is to expect change.

The day was warm and bright and Sam was dressed accordingly.

"Where are we going?", asked Sam, flashing what for me had become her trademark smile, with a touch of imp, as she took her seat next to me. My hand already on the gear stick – manual of course, the only way to drive – I replied mysteriously, "The beach."

"Which one?", knowing there were a hundred beaches off into the distance.

"Kiama. It's a lovely town and an easy place to swim if we want to."

We both lived half a day north of Sydney, so we had a good drive ahead of us. That's just the way I wanted it.

I don't know if you've ever experienced sitting low down in the belly of a sports car, feeling the rush of air all about and through you as the car accelerates, and the rush of adrenalin in your veins.

It's out of this world. And on our drive, with my cute-as-ever friend Sam alongside me, this was the best-ever weekend that I can remember.

Some days the traffic can be all choked up, but not this time. Maybe some people had worried about the forecast, I don't know, but there had been a shift that Saturday morning, and we seemed all set for a smooth trip and a magical time. Magical too because of Sam.

This was one of the great things about being with Sam: there was no romantic expectation, no tension waiting to be resolved, no "should I, shouldn't I?", no – none of that. It was just two best buddies, and you know, I will be honest: I prefer girls, so what better buddy could I wish for?

"Hey Dale", suddenly asked Sam, "done any writing lately...any new poems?"

"No, not much" I replied, "not a lot of inspiration", as I laughed it off.

"Ah" came back Sam, "but how do you get your inspiration? - and hey, I also have been meaning to ask you, how do you actually write, especially a poem? I've noticed that all of yours are so different! I have never found a pattern - not even one haha!!"

"Wow...and thanks!" I responded, "I'm glad we have a long drive ahead of us! – I'll give it a try."

I had to focus on the traffic for a little while, due to its variable speed, and that suited me as it allowed me to reflect on my answer. How do I write a poem? The truth is a surprise only to those who aren't poets: poems write themselves. Yes, they do. I know it sounds crazy, but...well, bear with me....I'm about to give my answer to Sam, anyway.

**TO READ THE REST OF THIS STORY CLICK HERE**

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Dahlan-Simpson.pdf>



## Cubby Ominosity

*Irwan writes the fifth article in his series about his cubby. © Freeman Wyllie 2021...*

Isn't it funny that there is no noun equivalent for the adjective ominous? Ominous is the state of being full of omen or, in its original form, full of omen, but that does not quite capture my meaning for the purposes of this article. So, should the noun be a word I create especially for this purpose – a word like ominosity? I think I prefer this more preposterous option in this case.

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Years ago, I remember hearing an American broadcaster, no offence to my American sisters and brothers, describing a facility that holds guns as an armorarium. What's wrong with the very friendly, very simple and very existing word, armoury? I know it is such tantalising fun to play games with words, but some games have ugly and tragic consequences.

The word armorarium is one such tragic consequence. And as we know, one tragedy can lead to another. There is a very real danger that playing with words in this way could lead to further misshapen adaptations – perhaps armorariumery, or even armorariumtiddlyumtum – although the latter has something going for it !!

Even so, for the sake of this exercise, I am going to deliberately abuse the English language - for impact - in order to talk about an ominous lesson recently learned while living in the cubby. I want to explore the state of ominosity I am currently experiencing.

Having got these definitional questions out of the way, and with your forbearance, let me tell you yet another story about my cubby. Unlike previous cubby stories, this one is contemporary. This is no dramatic story from the past. This is recent and pressing – a puppy of a story jumping around for attention.

You know how in Subud we sometimes get premonitions? Well, over the last few weeks, I've had a disturbing feeling about the cubby - a feeling of ominosity. Something was not right.

I have written about, and sometimes joked about, the age of the cubby and the anthropological eras it has survived – the pediatrocene age – young kids, the adolescene age – teenagers, and of course, the current oldfartocene age. So the cubby is now firmly located in the last of these epic eras.

I had hoped that after my long association with the cubby, I had formed a similar relationship to that between Dorian Gray and his portrait. I had hoped that as the cubby aged, I would nevertheless retain my youthfulness. After all, the cubby is made of mere matter, and I am a human being (loosely defined) who has the promise of eternity. This seemed like a reasonable hypothesis, matter ages and collapses; humans live on in eternity. And as I had noticed the cubby was ageing, I wanted to test my hypothesis.

So, I adopted a scientific approach. I observed my cubby and myself – very carefully.

My conclusions are based on the following observations.

### First, to the cubby

The other day I walked to the sink. I do this many times a day – situation normal. This time, however, I felt something different. Mysteriously. I seemed to drop in height momentarily. I thought I was having an experience. I'm in Subud; we have experiences. Walls that turn into liquid energies; trees that wave branches despite there being not a breath of wind; bits of people remaining in rooms after they have left – and I don't mean hats and umbrellas.

With what must have been a puzzled look, I repeated my movement to the sink. It happened again. That's strange I thought. Yes, I'm having an experience. Aren't I lucky to be in Subud? I turned back to my computer. Thought nothing more of it. Subud member – situation normal.

Two days later, this time sitting at my computer, my feet felt like they were floating on water. Another experience? I pressed my foot against the floor a second time – but no water this time. Ok, I'm very busy. I'll think about that later.

Yesterday I was doing latihan. Again, the floor turned to water. Don't think about it, I thought. Stay connected.

Today, I focused. The floor is hard here and like water there. Oh dear. Under the cubby. Lots of Havisham cobwebs down there. Conclusion: the floor is giving way. I'm not special after all. It was not an experience. The cubby is starting to collapse from old age.

However, sad as this realisation was, it was still consistent with my hypothesis, my hope, that the cubby would age but I would not.

So, I turned my sophisticated observational powers on myself. The following was my conclusion.

I'm getting old !!

### That's it in a nutshell

It has now become abundantly clear that yes, the cubby is ageing but, alarmingly, there are signs that I am ageing too. I had hoped that as a 'being' trying very hard to be a 'human being', I might

have a different path.

I understand now, after making these careful observations, much reading and much thought, that when people talk about human eternity, they mean after you're dead !! It is clear the cubby's ageing and so am I. Like the cubby, I will eventually collapse to the ground – like one of those chimney stacks brought crashing down to make space for a new apartment block.

It turns out there was good reason for my feeling of ominosity. I'm going to die !! I don't know when of course. And certainly not straight away. I have no life-threatening illness. And like the cubby floor, there may be some repairs that can delay things a little. Perhaps a Mediterranean diet? Will the wrinkles go? Or is it too late for that?

A sort of Prufrockian terror and timidity swept over me.

Bapak had much to say on the topic of death. Bapak told us not be afraid of death, but also to pay attention to it. Sometimes he spoke of life after death as a realm of bliss – “a life of glory and unlimited happiness” (*WSA, 2007, Talk 2 From "Bapak's Talks Volume 2", Recording 58 JKT 2*). Other times he gave us quite blunt explanations of what we might face. I seem to remember one disturbing account of people arriving on the other side with their unpurified bits missing, or in the wrong place !!

He also explained that some of our treasured possessions from this world, our knowledge and intelligence for example, would not come with us. Years spent grafting away at life, the accumulated knowledge, gone in an instant. Plenty of cause for ominosity there. Although, now I come to think of it, the ability to do a bank reconciliation or learn a new app does seem pretty trivial faced with the immensity of what we have experienced in latihan.

It's a mixed bag this ageing thing, this dying thing.

Varindra Vittachi once bravely asked Bapak whether what he spoke of as the true human world after death was a spiritual state of being or an actual place in the universe. Bapak replied: “Ya, it's a place beyond this solar system” (*A Reporter in Subud, p. 194*).

How astonishing.

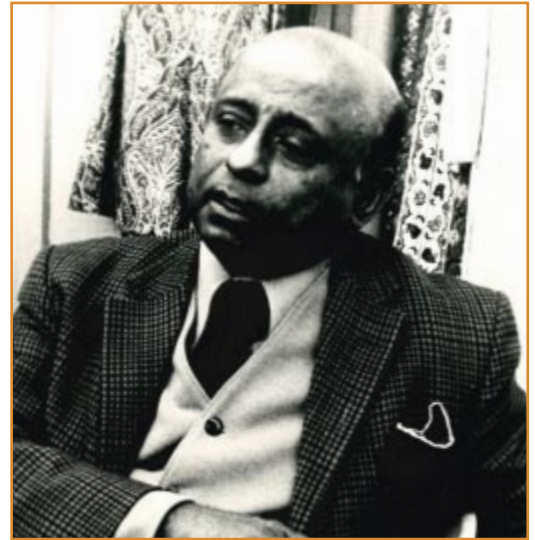
So, in recent times, the cubby, although firmly rooted in this solar system, has led me to consider these important matters. There is no doubt that the cubby and I do have a similar ominous destiny in this world but, if I play my cards right, get all my bits in the right place, there might just be the faintest possibility that .....

It has sometimes seemed that this intimate relationship with my cubby would be a never-ending story - but no, that's not true. I know that now.

So, you see, the ominosity created by my recent cubby experience has not fully left me.

Despite Bapak's reassurances, it's very hard to really come to terms with an ending story – even if it is only in relation to this world.

**PS** – I am astonished to discover that the preposterous word, ominosity, does in fact exist – but only in less prestigious – dare I say it – American dictionaries. ●



*Varindra Vittachi: beloved brother, great story teller and Bapak's "man in the world".*

## THE PASSING OF ROZAK TATEBE

My Father-in-Law Rozak Tatebe passed away on the 4th December at 23:44. He was one of the oldest members in Japan and devoted all his life to Subud and Latihan Kejiwaan.

Brothers and Sisters, please pray for him to Almighty God so that he comes into Heaven and sees Bapak again.

Thank you very much for your love toward Rozak Muftiah Tatebe, Jovan and Halimah Hachisu

We expect that tributes to Rozak will be in our next issue.

# TRIBUTE TO ROZAK TATEBE

*From Manna Johnson...*

I am shocked and saddened to hear that our dear brother Rozak Tatebe passed away on 4 December. He was one of the old members opened by Husein Rofe in 1954 while Husein was visiting Japan, and I first met Rozak much later in 1980 or 1981 at the Saginuma Subud House in Japan soon after I was opened.

My first impression of him was that he was gentle, refined and intellectual, but it didn't take long for me to realize that he was actually a driving force in Subud Japan and that he was always in the centre of every Subud activity.

When I was still living in Japan, it was an honour for me to work for him for a couple of years as a secretary of Purnama Trading Co Ltd (company funded by a few Japanese Subud members including Rozak after Bapak gave a talk about Purnama project.

Sadly it had to be closed down later due to lack of expertise though) and during that time, one day when we were having lunch together, I was very fortunate to have an opportunity to listen to some of his spiritual experiences: how he came to Subud, how the souls of his wife and other woman were swapped in the spiritual level, how he coped with TB with the help of latihan, and a very strange experience he had in latihan just before Bapak appointed him to be Bapak's interpreter.

Rozak said that he had felt strong vibration only on his mouth during latihan which he thought was very strange and didn't understand what it meant at that time, but later understood his mouth must have been touched and tested by God's power for God to check whether it could be used to convey God's words when he spoke for Bapak as an interpreter.

(All these and many more amazing experiences he had on his spiritual journey were written later in his book "Subud - A Spiritual Journey" ) These stories were really personal but very deep and intriguing, and I am still grateful to him for having shared such extraordinary experiences with me at that time and I keep them as valuable memories in my heart.

## On a personal level...

On a personal level, he was MC of my wedding, and when Lachlan (my late husband) was dying of cancer, Rozak kindly offered to come to the hospital every Saturday to do a special latihan with him, and I still remember Lachlan said before dying that the latihan he did with Rozak in the tiny room of the hospital in Tokyo was one of the strongest latihan he had ever experienced in his life.

In Subud he served as an International Helper, ISC Chair and MSF Trustee, and he also set up Subud enterprises in Japan in order to fund Subud. But due to ageing and his physical conditions, Rozak stepped down from the international role at the age of 69 after the 1997 World Congress in Spokane, but he was still active for some time by writing books and poems (he actually said he wanted to be a poet when he was young !) in spite of his declining health.

As a Japanese translator, when I came across with difficulty in translating Bapak's words, I used to ask him for advice because he was not only knowledgeable and intellectual (he graduated from one of the top universities in Japan, Tokyo University and studied French there) but also his understanding was very deep and it's obvious that his understanding came from his long time latihan experiences.

## One thing I cannot forget...

There's also one thing I can't forget: When Rozak was still alive, somebody wrote about his conversation with Rozak (in Japanese) in which Rozak had said "When I die and have to stand in front of God and if God asks me 'What did you do for Purnama? Did you do or achieve something', what should I say to God?"

This clearly shows how seriously he was taking the situation at that time as a managing director of the project when it was stuck and not progressing. He was a man of seriousness and reliability.

Through his entire life, he showed us how to be Subud inwardly and outwardly, with the qualities of Susila, Budhi and Dharma, and I feel deeply the loss of our respected brother.

Thank you, Rozak, for everything you did for us as a pioneer, and your work and legacy will live on in our hearts for ever.

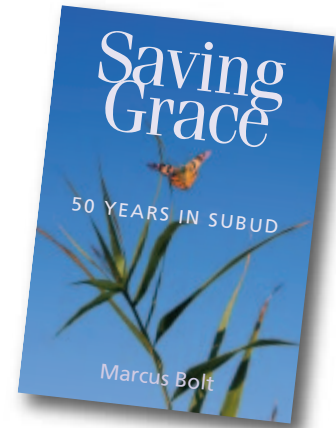
Lastly, my deepest condolences go to his wife Muftiah and daughter Halimah, and may Almighty God give him peace and a good place in the hereafter for everything he did for Subud.



# Saving Grace – 50 Years in Subud

Marcus Bolt

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



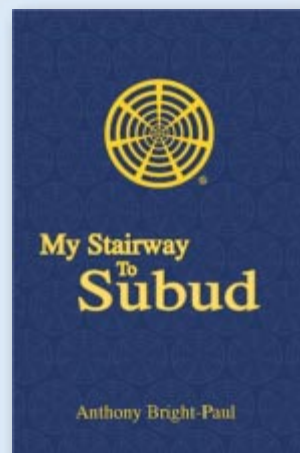
“Entertaining and instructive by turns, Marcus writes in an easy, flowing conversational style that gives the reader the feeling of being personally addressed. Unpretentious and refreshingly free of sanctimony, there is a generosity and a warmth of spirit about his narration that quickly befriends the reader and invites positive participation...”

*Laurence Clark MA (Oxon), CBE*

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

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*A new book from Lawrence Brazier*

## AN OBLIQUE LOOK AT THE WORLD

*In the introduction, Lawrence writes...*

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

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

*Harris Smart writes...*

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

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

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

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

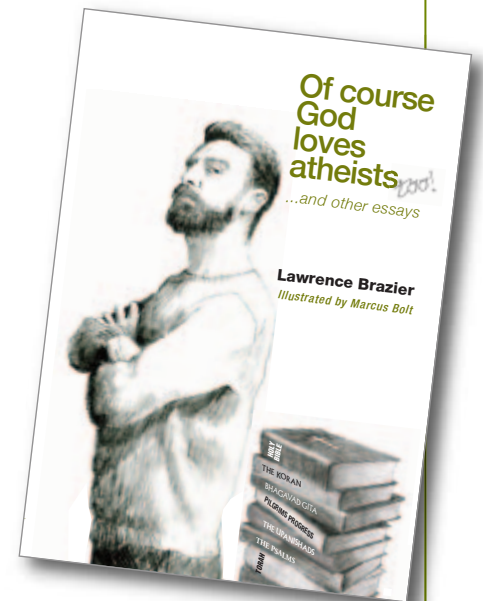
There are jokey pieces about sarongs and getting blessed by sneezing, but above all one senses the deep wonder of his good fortune, which he has received in a difficult world.

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

[www.lulu.com/search?adult\\_audience\\_rating=00&q=Of%20Course%20God%20Loves%20Atheists%20Lawrence%20Brazier](http://www.lulu.com/search?adult_audience_rating=00&q=Of%20Course%20God%20Loves%20Atheists%20Lawrence%20Brazier)

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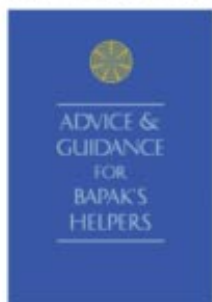
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