



Celebrating Bapak's Birthday

This edition of Subud Voice comes out in June, the month of Bapak's birthday, June 22 1901. Working closely together with Daniela Moneta of Subud Archives, we have endeavoured to feature some stories which relate to Bapak.

This photo of Bapak was taken by Mikhail David in 1987, not long before Bapak passed away, when he was visiting the graves of his ancestors in the Jakarta Cemetery.

In this issue we have included four articles which relate to Bapak;

1. An article by Daniela Moneta and Solihin Garrard, Subud Archivists, which mostly focuses on Bapak's book *Susila Budhi Dharma*;

2. An interview with Bapak's daughter, Ibu Yati;

3. A talk which was given by Bapak's daughter, Rochanawati, on the theme of how one should be when in Bapak's house;

4. An interview with Pak Kuswanda who was three times chair of Subud Indonesia. The interview touches on Kuswanda's contacts with Bapak.



*Bapak Muhammad Subuh,
June 22 1901 - June 22 1987.
(Photo by Mikhail David)*

*Daniela Moneta and Solihin Garrard, WSA Archivists, write about Bapak's book *Susila Budhi Dharma* in the context of celebrating Bapak's birthday...*

The WSA Archives has many versions and editions of Bapak's book *Susila Budhi Dharma*. The Archives has scanned several of these editions and translations to make them available to members on its website, for Subud members only.

See the end of this article to learn how you can request access to the Archives website where this material is available. This article attempts to describe the various editions in detail and give some historical background for each.

This article is about three things we can celebrate during the time of Bapak's birthday when many >

of us around the world are locked down due to the global pandemic and have to stay at home to keep safe and well:

1. Finding three "new" items in the WSA Archives: Rofé's missing second half of *Susila Budhi Dharma* translated into English in 1954; Bapak's personal copy of *Susila Budhi Dharma* published in 1958 that has his handwritten corrections; and the first five chapters of Mansur Medeiros's English translation from the Javanese of *Susila Budhi Dharma*.

2. Introducing the Subud community to the Subud Archive's website, for members only, as a place the Archives can share information about the history, growth, and development of Subud.

Send request for access to admin@wsaarchives.org

3. Digitization as a way to share material. The Archives are making some older books which are out of print available to be read online as well as other historical material, films, photos, and video-taped interviews of Subud members, among other things.

To see this article in full, click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/CELEBRATING.pdf>

How to Request Access to the Subud Archives website

All of the material mentioned in this article and in the footnotes is available digitally for "Subud members only" on a secure website. Subud Archives Online website uses technology to take a further step on the road to making our archives more accessible for Subud members today and in the future. In so doing, we are able to make visible and available archival material previously held only in remote storage areas.

The Archives website gives access to historical documents, videos, films, photographs, books, newsletters, interviews, and stories that tell the history and development of Subud today as it is being made and back to the very beginnings of Subud and its spread around the world. The books and publications mentioned in this article are available to members on the Archives website.

This website is intended to be of use to incoming officers and helpers who wish to learn more about their job and what others have done in that job before them; to help those who work in wings, affiliates, and related entities; to provide source material for Subud historians wanting to write the history of their country, region, or group; and for Subud members who want to progress in their personal development in the latihan and understand more about Subud and its history.

You can apply for access to the Subud Archives Online website by emailing admin@wsaarchives.org. A request form will be sent to you asking you to observe copyright and not share links or your password with others. Return the form to the address listed and you will be notified when your registration is completed.

Email: admin@wsaarchives.org



The WSA Archives has many versions and editions of Bapak's book *Susila Budhi Dharma*...



Interview with Bapak's Daughter, Ibu Yati

Subud archivist, Daniela Moneta writes, "Ibu Yati (Ibu Siti Hardiyati Syafrudin) said yes to sharing her interview and those of her children. Here is a description of her interview..."

"Ibu Yati is Bapak's youngest child. She was raised by her grandparents. Later at age twelve she moved to Yogyakarta, the capital of Indonesia at the time, to live with her father and her siblings.

Ibu Yati talks about growing up as a teenager in Yogya and taking English lessons from Husein Rofé. As a child of Bapak, she learned early on that Bapak belonged to everybody.

"Ibu Yati tells about her love for theater, singing, and painting. She believes she is the first in her family to pursue these interests. As a young woman, she read poetry on the radio every month. She is not surprised that her daughter is now on television. She tells us about being a widow and having to raise her four children and not being able to travel with Bapak around the world. She did go to the World Congress in Wolfsburg in 1975. She wanted to go to the next World Congress in Toronto but Bapak said no, that she had to stay at home and continue her work in at the S. Widjojo.

"Ibu Yati remembers that it was sometimes difficult to work in the Widjojo building because she didn't have the desire to do that kind of work, but she learned a valuable lesson - you have to create the desire to work, you have to be patient and sometimes people are so impatient - but often times if they are patient just one more second, it will make a difference. She feels that when you follow the latihan, patience is the key.

"Since 1975, she has been very active in Subud. Besides working at the Widjojo, she was a regional helper for South Jakarta and as a young helper she could show others how to work with the senior helpers. She became an International Helper and was also the chair of Susila Dharma in Indonesia. We have Mikahael David and Harris Roberts who talk about Bapak's passing in a very personal way and I was a bit surprised that they gave their permission to share. We could highlight Ibu Yati's interview and share her wish to become an actress and a singer and how now her daughter is fulfilling those wishes."

The interview with Ibu Yati is available on the [WSA ARCHIVES](#) website. But before you can access the website you must get permission from the administrator.

[How to Request Access to the Subud Archives website](#)

This film is available digitally for "Subud members only" on the WSA Archives secure website. You can apply for access to the Subud Archives Online website – email admin@wsaarchives.org

A request form will be sent to you asking you to observe copyright and not share links or your password with others. Return the form to the address listed and you will be notified when your registration is completed. Email: admin@wsaarchives.org

Once you have been admitted to the WSA archives site, to get the interview with Ibu Yati, you enter the term Yati in the search box. At this point, 49 records come up that mention her name or are about her, but the first on the list is her interview.



Ibu Yati, Bapak's daughter. This is her photo for the Memories of Bapak interview:

“ *As a child of Bapak, she learned early on that Bapak belonged to everybody...* ”

In Bapak's Home

A talk by M'bakju Rochanawati given after a ladies' latihan at Cilandak 1966...

This is the home of Bapak, and it can be said that if we are here too it is because Almighty God has given us this opportunity to receive that which our souls need, for God is gracious in many ways.

Though now we are alive on this earth, we do not know when the time will come for us to die, when God will take us, and so we should be thankful to Almighty God for giving us this chance to be where we may prepare for death while still fulfilling our obligations in life, so that when the time comes there may be enough light in us to enable us to find our way to God in the here-after.

It is better that we should always thank God for all that comes to us in this life, even when we have to work, when we feel tired, when we feel short of money, when people do not seem to like us, even despise us; and it may be that the time will come when we find that God helps us to worship with joy in all that we do, asking God for forgiveness for our many mistakes.

This will help us to become more quiet and humble in ourselves and towards others; nor even shall we pay much attention to our thoughts and ideas about others; what they do, how they behave, what they are supposed to think about us or to have said.

For while we are criticizing others, or even ourselves, we are attempting to do the work of Almighty God, the Only One, for truly only God is able to judge, and when we try to do so, we put ourselves at the lowest level and can at that time bring only unhappiness to ourselves, and at the same time lay a heavy burden on those among whom we live.

In Bapak's Home

To visit or to live in the home of Bapak carries with it for every person their share of responsibility toward the purity and peace of the conditions around them during that time; for I must remind you again that it is a special and vital time in your life, granted by God for the needs of your soul, and is therefore doubly, trebly precious and not to be squandered away.

If you have been sharp or impatient with someone and do not sincerely ask her forgiveness, it can interfere with your worship; and if through carelessness we engage the thoughts of others to join us in thoughts or criticism about, for example, difficulties or conditions, or the way things are done, cleaning of a floor, the washing of dishes, the doors that have not yet been washed, this is in fact a false and harmful form of judging, for as I said, in reality it is far beyond us to judge since we do not possess the Divine attribute of understanding, that is to say, of knowing as a whole and at one time what lies before and in and beyond the object of our criticism and disapproval.

It is like a man trying to move a mountain. He simply has not the power to do this and so, if he tries, it will only make him ill. Better he should move the smaller objects which need to be moved, and which he can manage, but which, though they are numerous and all around and often in him, he cannot see, he is so busy trying to move the mountain.

Suppose...

Suppose we have in mind that a brother or sister has made a mistake towards us, there is only one thing to do, to turn to God and ask forgiveness for our own mistakes, and ask again and again, till what we labeled a mistake in our brother or sister no longer exists for us.



M'bakju Rochanawati

“ *It is better that we should always thank God for all that comes to us in this life...* ”

All that exists is the sweetness and relief that is felt when one has sincerely asked forgiveness from a father or mother, and we will never wish to speak to others of something which no longer exists, just as we will not speak of our prayer for mercy from God, for the two have become one between ourself and God.

For we are like a vessel, which, in order to be filled from above, must be clean and empty. Unwise thoughts and talk to which we give our attention will clog and make this vessel unfit and even unable to receive that which it needs. And if these thoughts and talk are repeated to another they will disturb and confuse the listener, --if she is not already able to avoid receiving what such words can convey.

Furthermore, it may lead to heavy or unfruitful discussion, and so rob others of the peace and inner quietness without which they too cannot receive the blessing and guidance of God throughout their day.

It is in fact a heavy responsibility that we draw upon ourselves, when we engage the minds of others, with words based on our own thoughts, to look at a mental picture of behaviour, past or present, of others or ourselves. Even though we may think we are speaking from our true self, in reality we are still not free from the desires and passions when we talk, and so such talk is always dull and boring, and can never satisfy or be enjoyed by others. In fact, it can bring heaviness and confusion to the listener.

This is the home of Bapak; and here also is our Latihan Hall, beautiful with its space, dignity and peace, where many of us can worship together at the same time, often with the help of Ibu or M'bakju Rochanawati doing the Latihan among us. Especially before entering into the Spiritual Latihan of Subud it is advisable for us to quieten our minds with feelings of calmness and patience, for we are about to approach Almighty God in worship; to stand before the greatness and the glory of our Creator, without desires or thoughts; to submit sincerely to whatever comes to us from the Power of God.

Actually we cannot of ourselves become inwardly quiet, but we can try to surrender to God to make it possible; and to do this is an act of reverence towards the purity and splendour of the Almighty, and at the same time we shall be showing respect towards our sisters in Subud in whose company we are about to enter into the worship of God.

To enter...

To enter the Latihan Hall in this way is a prayer in itself, for truly it is a holy place and not to be used for idle chatter and talk about others. And here I must tell you that I have heard conversations there of a quality and content that I should expect to be heard only in a market place.

In the New Testament of the Christian religion it is recorded only once that Jesus became angry. As he entered the Temple in Jerusalem to pray, he found some of the people engaged in buying and selling as though it were a market place; and becoming angry he spoke these words to them: "My Father's House is a House of Prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves," and with these words he drove them out of the Temple.

We must remember that it is not only material things that can be stolen, but the peace and beauty of a place can be removed by un-seemly talk and by minds which are occupied with unsuitable thoughts. When Bapak tells us that we should learn to receive in crowded places and among noise, Bapak does not mean that we should create noise and disturbance among our brothers and sisters in Subud.

Bapak means that if we are in a crowded and noisy place, such as a cinema or railway station, we need not feel far from God, or be disturbed by conditions which already exist. It is good for us to use such times to learn to be quiet inside and feel God, for this also is a preparation lest we should be called upon to die under such conditions.

This is the home of Bapak. Let us express our respect for and appreciation of the blessing of being here by maintaining as far as possible, a state of calmness, patience and surrender to God. This will make us happy instead of serious and heavy, joyful instead of critical and complaining. Like a beautiful jewel is such a state, having many facets and angles which can receive and reflect back the light to us.

This state of surrender will not only make it possible to receive to untold and hitherto unimaginable joys bestowed by Almighty God on the pure in heart, but will reflect happiness and contentment, >

and even joy and patience under difficulties in a form which can be shared and enjoyed with one another without words, and which also will enable all of us to have a better understanding of the needs of others.

This, if granted us by God, will gradually eliminate the desire in us to judge, criticize or speak in a way that is out of place. In such a state it becomes impossible to be a disturbance to others, whether laughing, talking or silent, so that all then become in time with the spirit of Cilandak; the home of Bapak, built under the Will of God by man, for the worship of the Creator of all that exists, that which can be seen, and that which cannot be seen with the ordinary eye.

This talk was previously published in S.I.S. Bulletin February 1966.

Experiences with Bapak

The editor writes...

Subud Archivist, Daniela Moneta, is really doing a good job of making the Subud archives accessible. It is not just some dusty old files in a cupboard somewhere, it is all kinds of things which are being made accessible to us. These include videos and sound recordings as well as print material. Hardly a month goes by when Daniela does not draw my attention to some startling discovery in the archives.

This month she has alerted me to the fact that there is a video available of Pak Kuswanda. He was a wonderful man, an Indonesian, but educated in the USA. He was an Indonesian whom many Westerners found it very easy to communicate with. Because he had the ability to live in both worlds, the traditional Javanese world in which he grew up, but also the more easy-going Western world which he experienced as a student.

Fairly early on, I established a good relationship with him and sometimes stayed at his house which was just down the street from the Wisma Subud compound. Kuswanda had a little compound of his own because some of his sons and daughters lived in nearby houses in a court at the end of a side street.

Kuswanda had held important positions in Indonesian planning and development, particularly in the Department of Forestry. He also held important positions in Subud because I think I am right in saying that he was President of Subud Indonesia three times running.

He was a very lively man. I remember I went with him once to visit some welfare projects and he was the first to join in the dancing with which we were welcomed. And he also like to sing a lot in a country and western style. He would wear a big white cowboy hat and sing songs like "I was born under a wandering star".

One time he and I travelled by train together to Jogjakarta to visit various wonders and rarities to be found in that ancient city. I remember we went to one place where there was a stone so heavy that no one could lift it. And there was a pool in which a solitary turtle swam, said to be hundreds of years old.

Favourite story...

But my favourite story about Kuswanda is the story of the tomboy maid. Once I was staying with him and I had some clothes that needed washing. So, I went to Kuswanda and said, "What shall I do of these dirty clothes?"

He said, "Give them to the maid in the kitchen."

I went into the kitchen and there was no maid there only a boy. So, I came back to Kuswanda and said, "There's no maid in the kitchen, only a boy."

Kuswanda said, "That boy is the maid."



He wore a big white cowboy hat and sang country and western songs like "I was born under a wandering star".

It turned out that Kuswanda's maid was a woman who looked like a boy. She had her hair cut short and boyish and her whole manner was somehow boyish. She was extremely friendly and always helpful. When it came time to visit her village at the end of Ramadan, she didn't go down there on a bus. She rode her motorbike back there.

The thing is while she was such a good maid, her manner and appearance would perhaps have made her unemployable amongst the general conservative populace. So, it was actually an act of kindness on Kuswanda's part to employ this tomboy maid who would otherwise have found it difficult to find a job.

Kuswanda has passed on now, as has his gentle wife, Ibu Kuswanda. I wonder what has become of the tomboy maid.

This is all by way of the introducing a video interview with Kuswanda available at the Archives. This video runs for 21 minutes and Kuswanda talks freely about his experiences including encounters with Bapak, the experience of receiving the Qodar (Gift of God) during Ramadan, and events connected with being the chair of Subud Indonesia.

The interview with Pak Kuswanda is available on the WSA ARCHIVES website. But before you can access the website you must get permission from the administrator.

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Once you have been admitted to the WSA archives site, to get the interview with Kuswanda, you enter the term Kuswanda in the search box. At this point, 36 records come up that mention his name or are about him but the first on the list is his interview.



Hardly a month goes by when Daniela does not draw my attention to some startling discovery in the archives...



Bapak and Ibu Kuswanda, from the cover of a book that Kuswanda wrote about his wife.

The Subud Symbol and the Subud Organisation

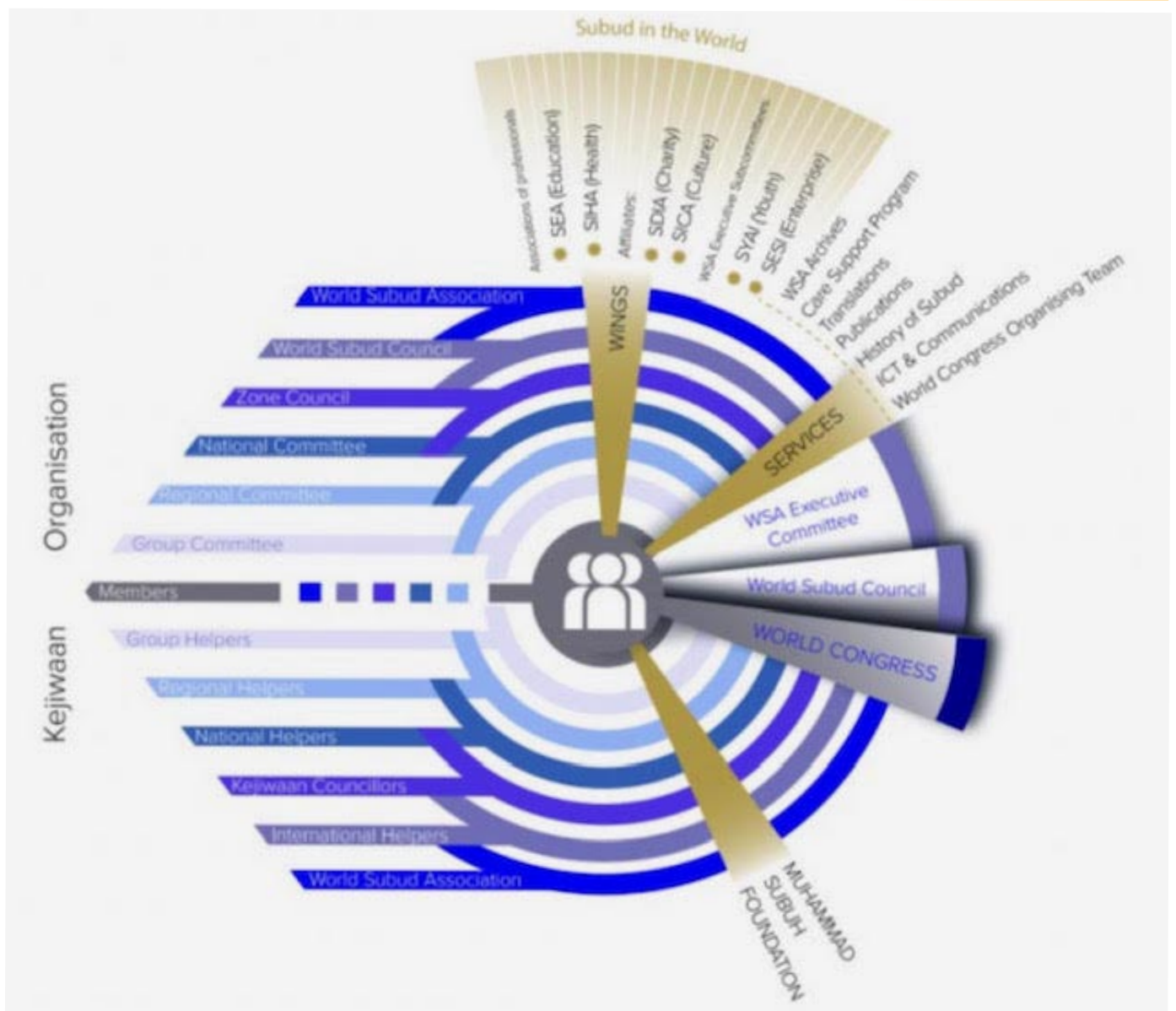
The editor writes... Some time ago, we published an article by Laura Paterson who had been a chair of Subud USA in which she talked about the resonance between the Subud symbol and Subud organization. She writes now...

A couple of years ago, Harris Smart published the following article by me in 'Subud Voice'. It describes an experience and an understanding that I had in 1999, during the time that I was the National Chair for Subud USA.

This was a profound and moving experience for me, and it has remained vividly as a part of my own understanding ever since.

I felt then, as I do now, that it was a true inner gift for me, for the time that I had served in that role.





Last year, the WSA presented to the membership a graphic that they will be using which illustrates this concept. However, there are elements from my own experience which are not present in this graphic.

“ So I was deeply moved when I saw this graphic from WSA...”

Nonetheless, it remains an excellent depiction of much of it. But most importantly in my own experience, the Subud Symbol is not just a two dimensional graphic.

Ultimately, as Bapak explained to us, the Subud symbol is three-dimensional. Actually, it encompasses all of the dimensions. Therefore, in my own understanding, the Subud Symbol is like a living hologram of the Great Reality. And like the Universe, it is in constant motion.

From the highest to the lowest, and then returning back to the highest again. And that all of us who ever have been opened in Subud are contained within this living hologram of the Subud Symbol. Both in our present lives here in this world, and also in our lives to come in the next world.

So I was deeply moved when I saw this graphic illustration from WSA, because it was like an affirmation of the understanding that I had experienced all those decades earlier. It was like a bearing of witness to the reality that I had felt so strongly then.

I am so grateful to know that this vision and this understanding now have become a part of our own organizational culture, and of the collective consciousness of our community. And that its time now has arrived

See my article *THE SUBUD SYMBOL AND THE ORGANIZATION* on Page 15 of *Subud Voice*, February 2021

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SVO-FEBRUARY-2021.pdf>

The Major Projects and Premier Hotels

The Editor writes...

The seed of what became known as “the major projects” was planted by Bapak at the Subud World Congress in Indonesia in 1971 when he proposed the setting up of a bank which could fund big Subud projects.

This bank, Bank Susila Bakti, was eventually established in Indonesia and was used to fund the building of a 14-storey office block, the S Widjojo Centre, in downtown Jakarta. Other projects began to follow set up by Subud members in various parts of the world.

In England there was a project called Anugraha to convert a mansion in Windsor into a Conference Centre. In Sydney Project Sunrise aimed to carry out a major urban renewal project in the centre of the city. Other projects were proposed in the USA, the Netherlands and Japan. The largest project of all was the development of the Indonesian province of Central Kalimantan on the island of Borneo.

The fates and destinies of these projects varied, but with the exception of Kalimantan, which is still a work in process, they proved not to be sustainable in the long run.

I conceived the idea that it might be good to have a series of articles in Subud Voice by people who had been involved in these projects where might write about how these projects are developed and why they had not worked out in the way we originally hoped. Were there any lessons to be learned for the future?

Premier Hotels

While it started later than the other projects mentioned, Premier Hotels can be considered in the lineage of the major projects since it involved a number of Subud members working together to create a very large project and it drew widespread support from the Subud community and there was profound disappointment when after an initial very promising beginning, the project did not work out as originally hoped.

In a correspondence with Lucas Horton who was one of the central people involved in Premier Hotels, I suggested that he might like to write the story of Premier hotels from his perspective. He has the document which follows in which he presents his view of Premier Hotels. ●

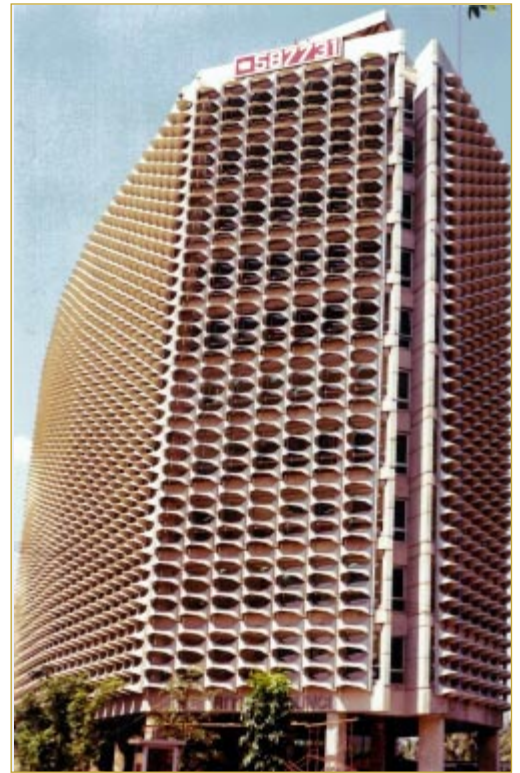
Premier Hotels

Lucas Horton writes...

In current Subud Culture, Premier Hotels was an example of one of those many failed Subud Enterprises that came to nothing. Best forgotten.

This story is an offering of a different point of view. If you do not want to hear this positive side, turn away now.

Premier Hotels was an enterprise that was set up to focus on building and operating international branded budget hotels around the UK. This opportunity presented itself to



The S Widjojo building, one of the first of the major projects, a 14-storey office building in downtown Jakarta.



Lucas Horton with his wife, Syna, and daughter, Lorna. >

the original founders of the project, four Subud members who were at that time working on another project, the House of Gray. This was then a derelict listed building outside Dundee which had been built by the 11th Earl Gray.

As a part of that restoration project, we had worked with Historic Scotland and Scottish Enterprise to secure finance for the structural renovation of the shell of the building with the aim of running it as a small hotel. Once having completed this major restoration phase we hired a hotel consultant to help us with the hotel end of the project. Apart from his advice on the House of Gray, as an aside he mentioned another product, Holiday Inn Express which was being brought into Europe from the US.

As a former marketing director of Holiday Inn, he said that there was great potential for the product, and he felt that he could get a development agreement to develop them in the UK, if we were interested in presenting ourselves as a viable development and operating team.

After a brief discussion between the four of us we felt that this was worth trying our hand at.

[The Meaning of Enterprise](#)

At that time there was also another strand that contributed to us taking on this new project. That strand was a statement made, I think, in 1991 by Ibu Rahayu that we Subud, and Subud members should 'rekindle our enthusiasm for enterprise'. This was some 4 years after the death of Bapak.

So, what was Bapak talking about when he was promoting enterprise. Was it just to create a way for Subud and Subud members to work together in order to make money? Or was there more to it than that?

For me, from the perspective of having been involved, at least in a minor way with three of these enterprises, they were all that for sure, but they were much more as well.

I have concluded that the reasons why enterprises are important in Subud is that they are manifestations in the material world of something that has originated in the spiritual world.

They formed something in this material world, thereby creating a channel through which Grace can come into this material world.

It is our part of the purpose and destiny of human beings to go out into this material universe, to work at the coal face of 'doing stuff' and at the same time being 'open to Grace' so that Grace can come to penetrate all that there is. Enterprise or the creation of enterprises is the mechanism for that to happen.

Physical buildings and material undertakings that are brought into existence by Subud members have this function of making the link between the material and the spiritual.

These buildings, performances, pieces of art, whatever have this inner reality for being a channel >



The House of Gray in its heyday.



The Ibis Hotel Chesterfield was once part of the Premier Hotels portfolio, newly built with 103 bedrooms.

“ *There is still much to learn about how to be more effective when working together...* ”

into the physical world for this higher force to penetrate into everything that is.

And that Grace continues to come into this material world through them to this day even when Subud and Subud members have nothing to do with these undertakings.

Grace comes into the world through this channel and into the soul of humanity and it can pop up anywhere, bringing to life human endeavour in all corners of the planet irrespective of the presence of Subud. This I believe is happening today and how much is that action needed?

This is why it is important for all Subud members to put their talents to work so that they can manifest in the world for the benefit of the development of all humanity .



A balance needs to be found that charts the way between the material and the spiritual...



[Back to Premier Hotels](#)

This was at the very beginning of budget hotels in the UK. The only other people in the market were Travelodge and Travel Inn who both modelled their product around 30–40-bedroom hotels associated with an adjacent restaurant and no food, no drink and no lifts. Very basic.

The Holiday Inn Express model was based on the American brand, untried outside the US, for a larger hotel with a very minimum provision of a continental breakfast offering, but with a bar and what they called a ‘great room’ that functioned as a modest hotel lounge.

Being the first private sector developers of this product in the UK, our version of the product has become the ‘gold standard’ of the product and has contributed to the success of the product and of quality budget hotels in general in both the UK as well as in Europe.

[How Premier Worked](#)

Premier hotels built many hotels in the UK, usually in undeveloped places or on the edge of run-down areas. Building new hotels in these areas helped bring them back to life and prosperity.

Go to the Albert Dock in Liverpool now, where we were just about the first to build there, it is now part of a major renaissance of that area of Liverpool with conference centres, sports stadia and much more. The same is true for all the other places that Premier built. In Cardiff, Waterloo, Wembley, Dartford, Bristol, Leeds, Greenock, Birmingham, Preston, Lincoln and many other places.

Each hotel is still standing today and operating successfully, serving the needs of humanity, helping regeneration and community development.

And that is on the outside. On the inside, it is my conjecture that each of these properties was connected with that link, that channel to Grace. That Grace persists today, 20 years after.

So, what have I, Lucas Horton learned about enterprises?

- Well for me they are proof that it is possible to grow something big from scratch with nothing but a great idea and a dedicated team. This started with the Bank and with S Widjojo and continues in Kalimantan and elsewhere.

- It is possible for multiple Subud members to work together, but there is still much to learn about how to be more effective when working together, so that we do not fall out with each other thereby damaging the enterprise.

- And there is more to learn about structures, how to balance commercial returns which attract finance, with community benefit and the broader needs of humanity.

- For me now this is a clear understanding of mine that for those who have received Grace in the latihan, the work that we do, consciously or unconsciously is in this realm of putting the latihan into practice.

- It means now that anything you create in the material world has the possibility that this link to Grace can be created. Once having been created this Grace persists even though there is no Subud presence in many of these places.

[On the other hand](#)

Of course, there is the other side. The Subud part of the enterprise did not last long, shareholders >

lost a lot of money which has contributed to a loss of confidence within Subud for Enterprise. I get that. Subud members fell out with each other, and some of these antagonisms persist to the present day. And this has contributed to the negative impression of enterprise in Subud today.

But all these efforts, whether it is with the Bank and S Widjojo, Anugraha, Project Sunrise, Kalimantan, each of these are examples of projects in the material world that have this content of Grace. Does that Grace diminish with time, now that Subud does not own them?. No, I don't think so.

The Bank and S Widjojo blazed an early trail for development in Jakarta, Indonesia. Project Sunrise started the world class redevelopment of Darling Harbour in Sydney, Australia. Anugraha has morphed into an outstanding 200-bedroom 5-star hotel with international recognition.

Premier Hotels has spearheaded development in many cities in the UK. And in the Kalimantan guest house, which I was involved with developing, created the first foothold, into Kalimantan, the first bridgehead step that has gone on to spawn another great adventure.

Yes many of these ventures came to a sticky end from a strictly shareholder point of view. Does that diminish the achievement of the physical reality of these projects? No.

Does it show that even people who receive Grace can still foul up? Definitely yes!

So, I now view all these efforts as being solid achievements. Whether it is Premier Hotels, the Bank, S Widjojo, Anugraha, Sunrise or Kalimantan.

I am reminded of the work and the history of Wright Brothers and Thomas Eddison. Many attempts, many failures. Eventually they found the way through to find something useful for humanity.

And so it is with Subud enterprises. If these previous enterprises are seen as steps along the way, we may yet find a way to crack this particular issue and emerge as an organisation that is resilient and resourceful, full of energy and guidance and known for creating something new and useful for all humanity.

A balance needs to be found that charts this way between the material and the spiritual. ●



The House of Gray as I left it.

Tell Me About the Subud Latihan

Livingston Armytage writes...

Like many people, I am now starting to grapple with the implications of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI fills me with a swirling mix of apprehension and excitement. I am still exploring what it can - and can't - do. So, this evening I asked the AI program ChatGPT this question: 'Tell me about the Subud Latihan...'

ChatGPT replied...

Subud latihan refers to a spiritual practice or exercise that is central to the Subud spiritual movement. Subud is an international organization that promotes personal and spiritual development, founded by Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo in the 1920s in Indonesia. The term "latihan" means "exercise" or "practice" in Indonesian.

The Subud latihan is a form of spontaneous meditation or surrender, where individuals open themselves to receive a direct experience of a higher power or divine energy. It is considered >



a non-denominational, non-religious practice that is open to people of all faiths or no specific religious affiliation.

During the latihan, participants enter a quiet and private space, free from external distractions. They typically close their eyes and allow themselves to be receptive to the energy or force that flows through them. This energy is believed to come from a divine source, which Subud practitioners refer to as the "Great Life Force" or the "Power of God."

The latihan is described as a personal experience that varies for each individual. Some people may experience physical sensations, emotional release, or a deep sense of peace and connection. Others may have insights, inspirations, or a heightened awareness of their inner self. The latihan is often considered a transformative and healing practice that helps individuals connect with their true nature and develop a deeper understanding of themselves and their relationship with the divine.

One of the unique aspects of Subud is the belief that the latihan is not directed or controlled by human intervention. There are no specific rituals, techniques, or prescribed prayers associated with the practice. Instead, it is seen as a pure and spontaneous experience that arises naturally from within the individual.

Subud as an organization provides a supportive community for its members and offers facilities for practising the latihan in various parts of the world. It emphasizes individual freedom and respects the diversity of spiritual paths among its members.

It's important to note that this description provides a general overview of the Subud latihan, but individual experiences and interpretations may vary. If you're interested in learning more or experiencing the latihan firsthand, it's recommended to connect with local Subud groups or practitioners who can provide more detailed information and guidance.

Livingston adds...

I thought this response might be of interest to our membership. I found ChatGPT's answer impressive. It is surprisingly accurate, succinct and clear. I think AI raises some profoundly interesting and also important questions for us all to explore and consider.

Editor's note: It would be interesting to hear a range of options about AI. Write to the editor at subudvoice@gmail.com - I will pass on your comments to Livingston.

E-Lango visits the Roda Viva School

Sabariah van Beek writes...

E-Lango is a recently registered UK company (February 2021), and the enterprise of a group of freelance language professionals from all over Europe.

They work as translators, post-editors, and copywriters, in academic fields, business communications, and also in TESL/TEFL (Teaching English as a Second/Foreign Language) and with an eye to advancing social development.

In the beginning of March, the directors carried out their promise to donate from the first year's profits to a worthy social project, and made the trip from the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Norway to meet in Lisbon, Portugal.

This was the first time some had met each other in person. It was to be the occasion for a strategic business meeting on the one hand, and a visit to the

I was impressed by how succinct and accurate the explanation was...

It was an exciting opportunity to experience first hand the day-to-day reality of Roda Viva...





*From left to right, back row: Humphrey Liddiard, Sandra Creemers; Dahliani Drejza.
Front row: Khairani Salem, Rita Dinis, Sabariah van Beek, Conrad Aldridge, Daniela Dinis,
Magdalena Vianden-Prudent.*

private school for refugee children which they had chosen to support on the other, a school with a lot of history, as we will see, known as 'Roda Viva', with the legal nomenclature of the Associação de Solidariedade Subud.

For all of us, it was an exciting opportunity to experience first hand the day-to-day reality of Roda Viva, the nursery and preschool which serves the Timor neighbourhood in the Lisbon suburb of Amadora.

The school's own mission, 'to contribute to the social integration of vulnerable populations, refugees, risk groups and people with disabilities, and working from a community perspective', has been in action for just over 40 years.

Its roots started in the hearts of a couple who were school teachers, Iksan and Irina Mendes and Soliah Guerra, a specialized pedagogical kindergarten educator, who decided to make the commitment to better the lives of these poorest children of desperate refugees and in a novel way, with a pilot programme also aimed at lifting the condition of their families.

To read the full story of the visit click here...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/E-Lango.pdf>

Whatever Happened To...?

Dachlan Cartwright asks the question about some names that have a connection to the history of Subud. From his essay "Truckin' the Tarikat"...

JOHN G BENNETT

It is fitting that this is being written on December 14 2022, the 58th anniversary of Mr Bennett's passing. A wonderful photo of him with the caption "GRATITUDE", from the John Bennett Foundation, has been shared, including among our Subud Facebook groups.

After the sale of Coombe Springs, Bennett eventually set up as a Teacher in Sherborne >

House, Dorset, starting his first courses in 1971. He visited Istanbul where he encountered the Turkish Sufi Master Hasan Shushud. Shushud later came to Britain, and told Bennett that he, Bennett, was “the first European since Meister Eckhart who had grasped the secret of Absolute Liberation”. (Witness, p377).

Shushud also made some startling statements such as humans who achieve great liberation are “different – they are self-created beings... not merely God, but beyond God.”(GMATW p257). Putting humans above God sounds dangerously hubristic.

Hasan Shushud is also famous for declaring, in 1980, that all his Sufis were praying for the Catholic Church, that it would accept as truth the Marian messages at Medjugorje.

Subud has of course an older connection with Marian revelations. The miracle of Fatima in 1917 in Portugal, when thousands of people witnessed the “Dance of the Sun”, after three children had received three messages from Mary, the first two relating the loss of Russia to the Church and then its reconsecration.

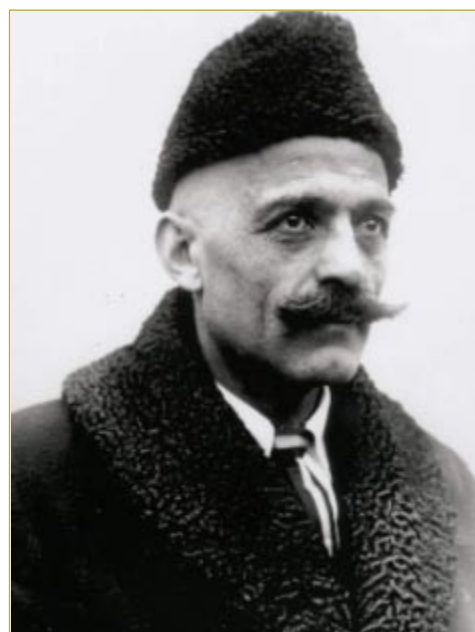
The third secret was supposed to be revealed by the Pope in 1960. It wasn't. In 2000 it was supposed to be released, and a form of it was, but this seemed to be classic spin, incomplete. Subud members believe that part of the third message said “There is a Messenger from God on the Earth, but he is outside the Church” [that is, Pak Subuh].

This would have been too much for the Church to admit, that a Muslim, a non-Christian, could be a Messenger from God. (The above is what I, as a Subud member, have heard. I apologize if anything I have written is offensive to Catholics.)

The Wikipedia article on Fatima is sceptical about this miracle, putting forth several “scientific” explanations. Those of us who witnessed the rainbows which appeared in London and Windsor on the death of Queen Elizabeth II find it hard to understand why anyone can still not believe in God. Mary is mentioned in the Holy Qur'an more times than in the Holy Bible, and we have seen described, above, her appearances to Ann Walker in Egypt.

John Godolphin Bennett passed away on 13 December 1974. Subud members owe him a debt of gratitude. In a way he was the John the Baptist who opened the way for Subud in the West. Let's not dwell on his departure from our community, but always remember him in our prayers.

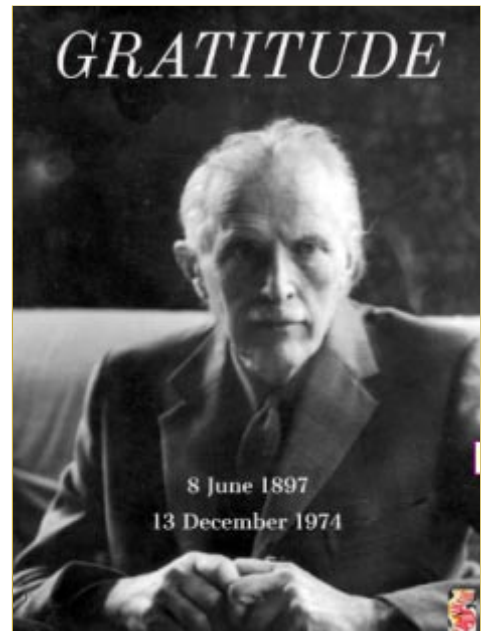
His legacy appears to be in good health, in the sense that there's a John G Bennett Foundation, with its HQ in Petersham, MA, and a John G Bennett Facebook Group (I don't know if they're affiliated). And according to meetup.com the largest Fourth Way Group in New York is “Gurdjieff Bennett New York City”.



GURDJIEFF

Many early Subud members came to Subud from “Gurdjieff”. For example, Salamah Pope and Lambert Hughes, both of whom I love and respect, speak of him with gratitude. I tend to agree with them, although there are others who find his methods suspect and dangerous.

The “meetup” website (meetup.com) has no less than 41 “Fourth Way” groups listed, the largest being “Gurdjieff Bennett New York City”. I'm obviously not in a position to comment on their present state of health, but it's obvious that the ideas of Gurdjieff and his followers have now penetrated deep into contemporary society.



OUSPENSKY

Ouspensky was originally Gurdjieff's chief disciple, and his "In Search of the Miraculous" is the most complete exposition of Gurdjieff's "system". The two mages later separated, G basing himself in Paris, and O in London.

Ouspensky wrote several erudite works, but here we will refer to just four pages on "The Sphinx" in Chapter IX, "In Search of the Miraculous" (not to be confused with the aforementioned book), of his 1934 book, *A New Model of the Universe* (If you read no other of the texts mentioned in this paper, please read this one - it's available for free download from archive.org.) Ouspensky "communes" with the Sphinx rather than trying to explain it, showing that he was a sensitive, imaginative poet as well as a meticulous master scientist.

To read Dachlan's complete document click here:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/TruckinTheTarikat2.pdf>



Gifts of the Journey

Reframing my misspent youth by Laurence Shorter...

As sometimes happens to absolutely all of us, I woke up one morning last spring and set about the important task of doubting my life decisions and comparing myself with everyone else.

Rueing the various sub-decisions that resulted in my not buying a property in the 90s or the 2000s, and even finally in the 10s, I launched into various well known routines about the foolishness of my choices, noting as usual how I was doomed to eternal frustration.

Luckily one of the by-products of habitual worrying about the past is that part of you eventually gets bored, realising in a dim way that no good has ever resulted, nor ever will. (One of my favourite quotes of all time: "Forgiveness: giving up all hope of a better past").

So as I was about to roll over into this puddle of familiar psychic mud something new happened; my brain started questioning its own account of the past.

This wasn't because I had read somewhere that this was a good thing to do - of course it's a good thing to do.

Instead, after years of behaving badly something in my neuro-universe just loosened up; a weary and illuminated corner of my brain decided to let go.

And so it was that I asked myself if it was really true that I had misspent my thirties in leaving full time work, writing books, dabbling in stand-up comedy and travelling India instead of, say, returning to McKinsey & Co or Private Equity or starting a tech unicorn. Or if in fact my oversoul had some kind of a plan or intention that ultimately would create equivalent value for myself and the world.

Reassessing the narrative of your life is an important undertaking - especially the story of your middle years. Once used, your thirties never come back. The importance of this decade is almost impossible to estimate until you're done with it. It is the engine room of life, an unrepeatable confluence of energy and experience with relatively ample time. You've got to use it well. Or to put it more kindly, you're going to use it how you're going to use it.

To read the complete article, click here:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/SHORTER.pdf>

To subscribe to Laurence's blog, click here... www.laurenceshorter.com



“ Reassessing the narrative of your life is an important undertaking...”

Angel on My Sofa

Maurice Baker, UK, introduces his new book...

The subtitle of my recently published autobiography is “An Open Book”, alluding to the Subud opening and also my attempt to be honest, warts and all.

Over the past few years I’ve written more than a dozen books – mostly novels and short stories for all ages, plus several song collections with audio CDs, but these have mostly been fiction.

Of course, there is seldom such a thing as pure fiction and many of my stories come from personal experience or people I’ve known (well disguised). My first adult novel, for example – *The Singer-Songwriter’s Last Stand* – was loosely based on adventures during the sixties touring folk clubs and pubs mainly around London.

That book was intended as the first in a trilogy, ending with the lead character (really me of course) eventually finding true love and enlightenment after years of guitar-twanging struggle. It made no mention of Subud because that wasn’t the market I was aiming at and, in any case, would have opened up a whole can of spiritual worms I wasn’t ready to go public on.

But real life got in the way as I moved homes and jobs, etc, new writing challenges came along and the Songwriter sequels got put on the back-burner. Though the idea for a more honest book about my life and in particular how I found Subud (or it found me) began to take root.

But why?

I’m not a Subud celebrity (if there is such a thing) with inside knowledge on Bapak and his family, nor have I played a leading role in the Brotherhood’s affairs (though I have taken on many Helper and Committee jobs).

However, I’ve been lucky enough to witness important times in Subud and known many of the amazing and interesting people involved. I have also been through some traumatic changes myself, so maybe I’m as qualified as anyone else to recount these experiences.

I’ve tried, in this book, not to preach to the converted (or unconverted), but simply tell it like it was – with humour if possible. There is a difficulty with this of course, since Subud is like a big family, in being too honest and maybe offending some people. To avoid that I have used pseudonyms where permission was not given, or simply omitted embarrassing details. Nevertheless, it’s as honest an account as possible.

Lastly...

Discussions I’ve had recently over whether a book (this or any other) can entice new members, have largely been inconclusive. In fact, mostly negative. So I have no great expectations in that direction. But for me, most importantly, I just hope readers enjoy the read. All comments welcome.

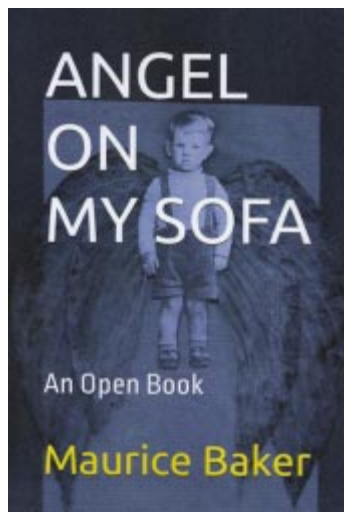
Oh, and by the way, in case you’re wondering about the book’s title, it refers to a startling occurrence back in 1969. Some people long for spiritual experiences – as evidence of God maybe – but my late-night encounter with a huge warrior-like angel was far from reassuring.

In fact, along with various other late-night happenings, did nothing to comfort me. Were they figments of my imagination? Make up your own mind, if and when you read my book. Most importantly, I hope readers enjoy the ride. All comments welcome.

ANGEL ON MY SOFA, available on Amazon, £6.99 paperback, or £1.99 e-book.



Maurice Baker.



“ *I’ve been lucky enough to witness important times in Subud and known many of the amazing people involved...* ”

The Passing of Istafiah Vogel

Iljas Baker writes...

Our much-loved Subud sister, helper and kejiwaan counsellor, Istafiah Yeonyaw Vogel, passed away at home peacefully in her sleep at 8 p.m. on 2 May after a long period of illness. Istafiah was born in 1930 into a high-ranking military family in Dusit, Bangkok.

Her father was General Nom Ketunuti. Her first marriage to a Thai businessman produced three children, but ended in divorce in 1958. She later married Hassan Vogel, a Swiss architect working in Bangkok.

Istafiah and her husband Hassan Vogel were opened in 1961 in Lausanne, Switzerland, where Hassan had taken some leave from his architectural practice in Bangkok. When he returned to Bangkok a Subud group quickly coalesced around them, and their spacious home became the regular venue for latihan.

Most of the members were expatriates working for foreign companies, as well as their wives and many international travellers who had decided to spend some time in Thailand. At one point there were about sixty members in the Bangkok group, but many of the expatriates eventually returned home and the travellers moved on leaving a smaller but committed group of Subud members.

Bapak visited the group in 1964 in transit to Europe and was hosted at the Vogel's house where he accompanied the latihan, conducted an opening and appointed some helpers for the group. ●



Istafiah with Bapak in the garden of the Vogel family's home in Bangkok 1964.

SICA Explore - with Alina Konrad - An Upcoming Presentation on Art Journaling - June 16

This is a promotional video for an upcoming presentation over Zoom by illustrator Alina Konrad on Art Journaling, to be held on Friday, June 16. This event is the third in a new series of Zoom presentations by creative people, sponsored by SICA, the Subud International Cultural Association.

The SICA Explore event featuring Alina Konrad on Friday, June 16 will be at the following times:

11:30am in Los Angeles • 2:30pm in New York • 7:30pm in London, UK
8:30pm in Berlin, FRG. • 12 Midnight in New Delhi, IN

The Zoom Meeting link on Friday, June 16 is Zoom Meeting ID: **836 8428 0807**

About Alina

Alina Konrad is an illustrator and YouTuber with a passion for the natural world. Her art journals and illustrations, created in a relaxing and cosy atmosphere, reflect the subtle beauty of the great outdoors. Each piece is a personal journey into the heart of nature, shared with viewers through her YouTube channel. With her work, Alina hopes to inspire others to appreciate and find comfort in the intricate details of our natural surroundings, all the while fostering a creative and serene space for everyone.

Follow Alina on:

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Blind Man's Buff



Max Beckmann's Blind Man's Buff.

Mardijah Simpson writes...

I wrote this poem in 1962 when I was 25. My husband and I lived in London and had never heard of Subud, despite both of us searching for our spiritual path for years. We were both writing a fair amount of poetry and I recall this one arrived, ripe, as I wrote in our small Dulwich garden. We found and joined Subud in 1964.

Blind Man's Buff

The game of blind man's buff is nearly over
Any second, any year the scarf will be ripped off
and the bluffing will be over.
I shall see the truth.
But now, fumbling through time
Feeling with fingertips from corner to edge,
Circling in the trap of every day,
Subconsciously or consciously avoiding the door
Because I cannot see it, but I know it must be there,
The brightness is waiting and if I cannot unscarf myself.
The white heat will shrive it up and
My naked new born eyes will see.
I do want to see, but my fingers are afraid to undo the knots
For I am not prepared for the unexpected.

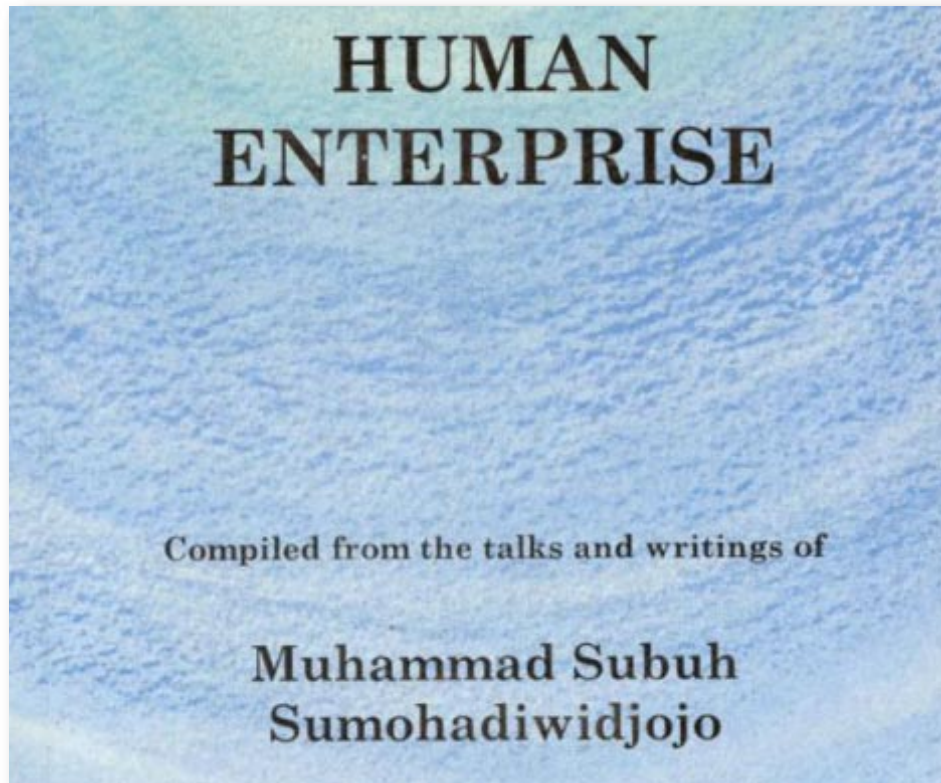
Human Forces Camp

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A Focus on Enterprise



Human Enterprise

This book is a compilation of 144 quotes from Bapak's talks on the subject of Enterprise over a 30-year period, between 1957 and 1987.

The book was a initiative of Rahman Connelly and Braford Temple in Australia who had developed a successful businesses over 11 years during which they had the opportunity to experience some of the things that Bapak had said about enterprise, including insights as to what is required to make an enterprise successful.

With few books left to sell, Rahman & Bradford have decided to make it available online, free of charge, but ask if you could provide brief feedback on how useful you found it, to:

rconnelly@izellah.com

You might also consider a donation to Subud Voice, which made this communication possible.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qkxmdtkh2ucobev/HUMAN%20ENTERPRISE.pdf?dl=0>

An Experience of Enterprise: The Connelly Temple Story and more

In 1983 Bradford and Rahman established a pension fund management business based in Wollongong, working out of Bradford's garage.

Rahman's industry experienced lead him to believe that there was ample of room for innovation to the betterment of pension fund members.

The business grew rapidly, such that by 1996 it had over \$1 billion of funds under management with 120 employees in Wollongong and 4 Australian capital cities.

In 1996 the business was sold to Royal Sun Alliance. In 1996 Bradford & Rahman decided to share the Connelly Temple story; how it got started, what was learned along the way and the support it provided to Subud and individual projects.

Again, with few DVD's left to sell, the video is being made available, free of charge, but ask if you could provide brief feedback on how useful you found it, to rconnelly@izellah.com

You might also consider a donation to Subud Voice, which made this communication possible.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qlamgq4s0e1ukd2/Connelly%20Temple%20-%20An%20Experience%20of%20Enterprise.mp4?dl=0>

Happy Viewing and Reading!

They Were There – *The Best of Subud Voice Volume 3*

Compiled by Ilaina Lennard

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



To order the book (£12 plus postage), click the link www.lulu.com then search for *The Best of Subud Voice 3*, and follow the on-screen prompts to basket, preferred payment method, delivery/billing address(es) and postage rate. Books normally take 5 to 7 days to arrive.

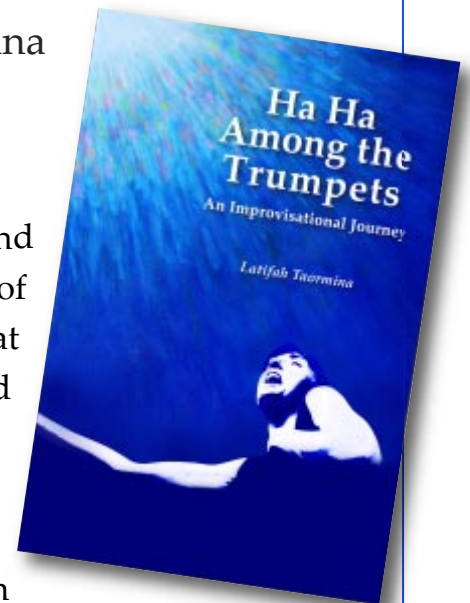
A New Book from former SICA Chair, Latifah Taormina

Ha Ha Among the Trumpets *An Improvisational Journey*

Names like Howard Hesseman, Alan Arkin, Bill Graham, and even Caspar Weinberger illuminate this incredible chronicle of The Committee, San Francisco's improvisational company that not only gave rise to many Hollywood stars, but also pioneered long-form improvisation.

Ha Ha Among the Trumpets chronicles the incredible journey of newly married Second City alums, Alan and Jessica Myerson (later Latifah Taormina) who built their own company from scratch in San Francisco in the early 1960s while exploring a new spiritual practice called Subud. The fascinating story of this company is told against the historical backdrop of the Kennedy assassination, Bloody Sunday, Selma, the early feminist movement, and the beginning of the anti-war movement.

Taormina's spiritual quest ultimately takes her beyond her marriage, which is tested by the competing claims of politics, work, family, and the author's emerging sense of her own identity. She moves to Wisma Subud, Indonesia, where, using her stagecraft skills, she teaches drama at the Jakarta International School. It's an astonishing story. *Mary Adams Paperback, 380 pages. Available from www.lulu.com (On the home page, click 'Bookstore', type *Ha Ha Among the Trumpets* into the search box then follow the onscreen prompts to order and pay.)*



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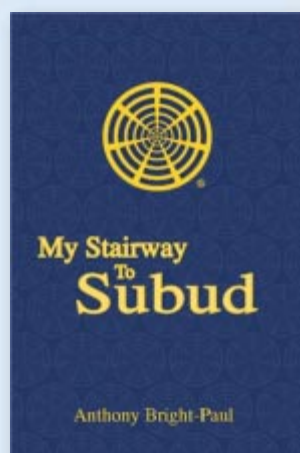
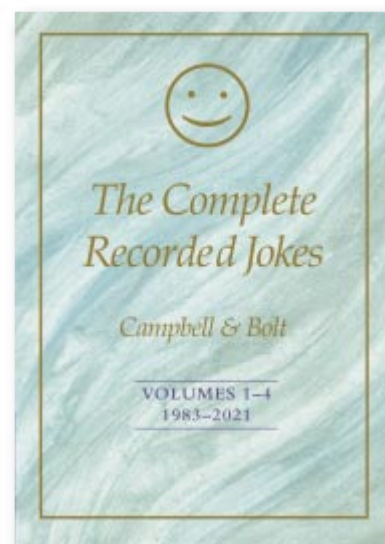
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Click the URL above and follow the onscreen prompts



My Stairway to Subud

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

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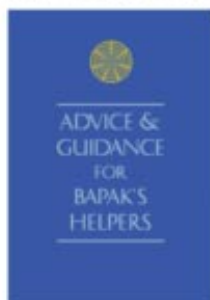
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