



A New Home for Canberra



The Canberra group celebrates.

For many years, the Subud group in Canberra, Australia's national capital, has not had a home of its own, but now Stanford Harrison writes from Canberra to say "Subud Canberra Meeting Centre is now under construction"...

On 22nd March we signed the contract with the builder – Total Project Constructions. The estimated construction completion date is 23rd September 2016.

Then our work really begins. In order to make our home habitable we will need to provide floor covering, paint, curtain and furnish it, while outside landscaping, paving and fencing need to be done. By doing it ourselves, we hope to make savings. If all is on track I envisage our official opening will be in November.

The Canberra group gives grateful thanks for the financial help of loans and gifts from MSF, Subud Australia, Subud Adelaide and the many individuals within Australia and around the world. There is still an opportunity to offer help in the work of completing the building. Contact groupchaircanberra@gmail.com if you would like to help.

Last Sunday April 10, Canberra group members young, old and everyone in between gathered at the site to acknowledge the traditional land owners, say some prayers and plant a strong young Kurrajong tree. The attached photo shows all who were there except Harry Armytage who is behind the camera.

Please join the Canberra group in praying for God's grace and blessing on our building project giving grateful thanks that our project is finally underway.

Please hold in your awareness the people who are working in the world to bring it to fruition, including the builders.

An Interview With Elias

Elias Dumit, WSA Chair, talks to Ilaina Lennard...

Elias, let's start with your background and early life and qualifications?

I was born and raised in Piracicaba, Brazil, 150 Km NW of Sao Paulo city. I studied Mechanical Engineering, but after graduation I started to look for new directions in terms of work, and following the flow of my life, I ended up being a partner in a small enterprise of visual communication. Later I took a post degree in urban planning. And then recently I was a member of the team that produced the plan for the phase 2 of the Rungan Sari development in Kalimantan. Right now circumstances are leading me to get involved in farming, which I'm finding very interesting.

How did you find Subud? How long have you been a Subud member?

When I was born both my maternal grandparents as well as my parents were already in Subud. So from childhood it was familiar to hear about Subud and be surrounded by the latihan. I always knew that I wanted to follow this path in my life, so I started to do latihan in 1981, when I was 18. I was a college student, then, doing latihan by myself during the week and with my family at weekends.

Two years later I had the opportunity to attend the World Congress in UK, which showed me a wider and broader aspect of Subud and its international nature. It was also my opportunity to see Bapak in person.

My wife, Sarah, is also a Subud member and helper. We have three sons.

Have you had other roles in Subud, such as being part of a committee, or a helper?

I was twice Kejiwaan Councillor in Brazil, then International Helper from 1997 (Spokane) to 2001 (Bali), Susila Dharma board member from 2002 to 2005 and WSA Deputy Chair from 2011 to 2014.

How do you see Subud around the world?. How do you see it at present and what do we most need to do at this time?

A lot of quality has developed in Subud; there are a number of people who can really experience the reality of the latihan in their lives and express it in the world.

As the generations change we are asked to do some introspection in terms of finding our direction and identity. In my understanding, the way to find the direction is by aligning ourselves with our origin. Like in Geometry: two points define a line.

Our origin is the latihan that Bapak transmitted to us, by God's grace. So the latihan is the core and reason why Subud exists as a brotherhood and as an Association. So it's all about the latihan and how to nurture it and spread it in its pure form.

So the Subud organization is not an end, but a means for us to carry on Bapak's mission and take Subud forward.

As I've been saying over and over, I believe the main focal point of our work is the Subud groups, where the latihan happens, where the reality of Subud takes place.

For instance, we need to support the helpers, so that they can as far as possible really be Bapak's helpers in caring for the Subud members and the spread of the latihan. For this reason there are some helper's workshops taking place now at gatherings and congresses - following the Puebla World Congress in Mexico



WSA Chair, Elias Dumit, in Australia with his wife, Sarah, and sons Alberto and Mateo. Their other son, Felix, was not travelling this time. (Photo Isti Jenkins)

resolution that was made about this. The International Helpers continue to travel and meet with local helpers as a way of supporting their development. The IHs are also working to produce an updated version of a book with guidelines for helpers. All this is essential.

“ *The focal point of our work is Subud groups...* ”

The outer aspect is also important. The quality of our physical Latihan space can also determine the development of the group. The MSF – (Muhammad Subuh Foundation) continues to have amongst its primary aims to support Subud houses, and in that way to help the groups to purchase or to improve their latihan facilities.

I have recently seen some very inspiring examples of groups caring for their Centre facilities. For instance, the group in Santiago, Chile, completely refurbished and renewed their beautiful Subud house before hosting the WSC meeting in 2015. The result was remarkable. The group in Sao Paulo, Brazil, has just completed works of similar nature and you can see the positive change of atmosphere, the enthusiasm of the members and the quality of the space, reflecting how much we care about Subud and the latihan. In Colombia, the Cali and Medellin groups also have plans for major improvements to their houses. There are other good examples that point to a spirit of renewal in the Subud centres.

I would really like to encourage all groups to perform some self-assessment in this regard, such as asking themselves:

- What is the quality of the space where we do latihan?
- Is it reasonably comfortable and adequate to the needs of the group?
- Does it at least reflect the same standards of quality that - on average - group members have in their homes?
- Are there any improvements the group could undertake together?
- Even simple ones like painting the wall or taking care of the garden together?
- Do we care for the members, particularly the new ones?
- Is the atmosphere in your Subud group generally pleasant and harmonious, full of life?

I must say, I hear that there are still Subud houses where people store old personal things, or where they send things which are old or obsolete in their own homes. Let's reflect on that...

Are these latihan spaces reflecting the quality of the extraordinary grace we have received and how much we are grateful for it?

I see us in some kind of transition moment in which we have the opportunity to convey to the new generations of Subud members something fresh, alive, clean, not only in the physical aspect of the latihan premises but also in terms of the inner space.

We need to acknowledge that on past occasions people in Subud have had misunderstandings and hurt each other. In many cases it seems that the communication was not clear enough and people made different assumptions, which lead even to conflict.

But we cannot stay in the past - we need to move forward. There is much to look forward to!

So the quality of communication is another aspect I would emphasize. Particularly when we undertake projects together it is essential to look at the legal aspects, to formulate agreements that describe clear roles and responsibilities. Because we are in Subud and nurture the spiritual it does not mean we overlook practical aspects like that.

Fortunately, it seems that we are learning how to work together in collaboration and harmony, based on mutual respect. This is critically important.

[What are your special interests outside of Subud? Books, activities?](#)

I have other interests, but the priority in my free time is bicycle riding.

[How did you come to your present role and how does it feel for you now? What kind of work](#) >

do you do as WSA Chair?

I accepted to serve in this role with a feeling of love and gratitude. The Chair's role is not an executive one. I see myself connecting with various people and seeing what each can contribute to the whole. It's about keeping us together, to serve our unity. This job is about weaving things together, making connections. I am happy to have a wonderful group of people to work with, all sincere dedicated Subud members. I can say this about all WSC members (Deputy Chair, Executive team, Wing Chairs, International Helpers, Zone Representatives) and also many country representatives (Chair, Committee Councillor, Kejiwaan Councillors) that I have been in close contact with.

It also pleases me to see helper and committee members working together in collaboration and harmony. So I see that we have a solid foundation, which means an opportunity to put good ideas into practice.

If I assess our shortcomings, I believe that we are a little late in implementing the improvements in the whole international communication structure, which involves web sites, identity management and to refine the function of each of our communication vehicles. We need support in that. The idea is to attract Subud people, particularly youth, to work closely with us and support us in different tasks. Right now we are revising and updating the editorial policy and content of our official news vehicle, which will now be called Connect. It will be rolling out soon.

Can you mention the Kalimantan meetings and the exciting Basara youth camp? The importance of our young people in carrying on Subud?

When I travel in Subud and meet with many young people, it energises my hopes about our future. The initiatives concerning the Basara camp in Kalimantan in December 2016, are an example of that. It started as an idea, a very Subud-minded one, and soon became a collaborative project between Subud Youth International and Subud Youth Indonesia. Then a network of support formed around the Basara Camp which goes right through Subud Indonesia to the Asian Zone, and to Subud International. We plan to have Yes Quest activities integrated as part of the Camp. By God's grace, it is all taking good shape. I pray it will be a meaningful and fruitful event for Subud, particularly for our Youth.

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SICA SECTION

Uplift! A Visit to the Apple Isle

Harris Smart writes...

Who are the southernmost Subud members in the world?

I am not really sure, but strong contenders for this title must be the Lonergan family who live in southern Tasmania, the Apple Isle.

In recent years the Lonergans have been a great asset to our Subud congresses in Australia. They bring not only a splendid example of a family, but they also make music! music! music! The family consists of Oliver and Audrey and their three daughters Rosalia (18), Emmaline (16) and Brianna (8).

Audrey is one of those people who has a real gift for taking a group of people with varied levels of skill and experience and quickly turning



The Lonergan family. Brianna, Rosalia, Audrey, Oliver and Emmaline.

SIC A SECTION

them into a choir. Many of us have now experienced this at our Subud gatherings.

Flowerpot

I decided recently to visit the family. They live in a Federation house on a 5-acre rural property about 45 minutes south of Hobart. There aren't too many places in the world where you can live that close to a city and be able to get out into the countryside in less than an hour.

The particular area where they live is called Flowerpot. Isn't that about the most charming place name you ever heard? (Early explorers sailing nearby saw a rock out in the sea with a tree growing out of the top of it. It looked like a flowerpot!)

The temperate climate here is a perfect environment for growing all kinds of things. The Lonergan's place is surrounded by vineyards, berry farms, specialist cheese-makers, and orchards of apples, pears and cherries.



There really is a place called Flowerpot.

Oliver

Oliver grew up in Sydney in a big Irish family with music always all around him. "My mother was a piano teacher. At age 87 she is still teaching and performing. Two of my sisters, identical twins, became a singing duo. Another sister went to the Sydney Conservatorium and now runs her own music school. She used to bring home all kinds of instruments which I'd try out."

Oliver taught himself to play guitar and with some friends from school formed a rock band, first called Skull, and then metamorphosing into Crescent Moon. One of his strongest memories from high school is a highly imaginative performance of The Hobbit for which he wrote and performed the score.

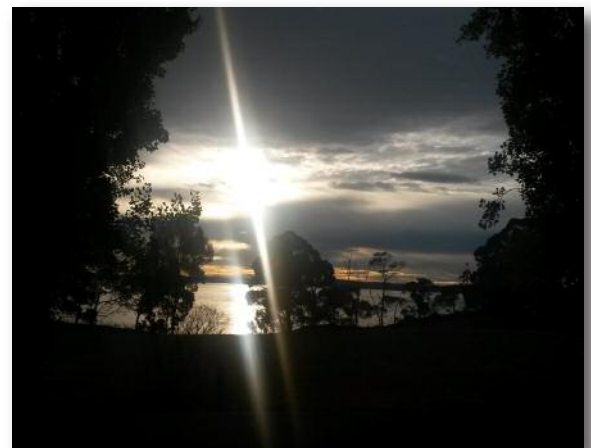
He graduated from University with qualifications in computer science and worked as a contractor in Australia and then overseas. The work was well-paid, enabling him to work for a few months and then go travelling in Asia, Europe and Africa. His adventures included trekking across the Himalayas and close encounters with wildlife, including buffalo and elephants.

His travels made him intensely aware of the environmental damage that was being inflicted on the planet and when he came back to Australia, he settled in northern New South Wales and began to study Permaculture, a system of sustainable agriculture developed in Australia.

He was soon putting this into practice on his own property and also running workshops to teach other people. One day Audrey came to attend one of these workshops...

Audrey

Audrey had grown up near Dubbo in country New South Wales. Her family life was often difficult and from the time she was in kindergarten music sustained and inspired her.



Dawn - a view from the house, looking through trees to the sea channel which separates the main island of Tasmania from Bruny Island.

SIC A SECTION

She continued singing throughout her school years and was in a choir which performed at the Sydney Opera House. At age 18, Audrey moved to Sydney and after a life changing trip to India decided to change her current job in computer education to environmental activism and worked with Greenpeace Australia for several years, becoming the NSW State Office Manager. Audrey then decided she would like to learn positive, practical and realistic solutions to the environmental issues her life at Greenpeace had exposed her to. This brought her to Northern NSW and Oliver....

They worked together on promoting Permaculture through their company Planetary Permaculture. During this time Audrey also worked for the Permaculture International Journal and continued with her love of singing by performing in a working rock band. Their first child, Rosalia was born in 1997. They needed more income to support the growing family and set up a new business.

Oliver had become interested in Feng Shui. Byron Bay was undergoing a residential boom, and their company, Byron Feng Shui, was very successful advising people about choosing land and designing houses according to Feng Shui principles.

Oliver also added dowsing to his skill-set, and was able to advise and help people understand the effects of the earth's energies, which can be good and bad and sometimes even cause stress and illness.

Subud

Around this time they also found Subud which was undergoing a growth spurt in Byron Bay. Byron Bay is famous for its highly experimental mix of hedonism and spirituality and for a moment provided a fertile soil for the growth of Subud.

About a year after they'd joined Subud, testing showed that they should leave Byron Bay, which at the time was a complete surprise and following this was a leap of faith for them. They travelled all around Australia for a year, home schooling their children and experienced a great sense of freedom and a realisation that all of Australia was their home. They now had a second daughter, Emmaline.

They settled almost next door to the Subud house in Darwin. A third daughter Brianna came along. Oliver began to work in a special program designed to help people with disabilities enter the workforce. They became very involved in the community surrounding the Steiner school their children attended and Audrey also began to teach there, particularly singing.

They enjoyed Darwin's welcoming and multicultural community. (Tiny little Rosalia and Emmaline would go to the market and busk as a recorder duo, sometimes pulling in a treasure trove of gold coins in just half an hour. No doubt the Cuteness Factor played a part!)

But after about five years, the family felt the urge to move again. They had lived in the northernmost and the easternmost parts of Australia; why not see what it was like in the southernmost?

Finding Flowerpot

They lived for a few months in northern Tasmania and then travelled south to explore the area around Hobart. Almost miraculously, on a weekend reconnaissance expedition, they discovered their 100-year-old house. Driving along, they noticed a sign saying "house for sale – enquire within". They went inside to have a look and bought it on the spot that day!

"The Feng Shui of this property is extremely good," Oliver told me. "The hills behind the house protect it

SIC A SECTION

from harsh winds, while the front of the house is open to the sea and the morning sun, and the earth energies are at peace”

Having good things manifest for them seems to be part of the family’s path through life. Last year they won a new car in a raffle and Rosalia was granted a full scholarship at the Hobart Conservatorium.

Audrey says, “We believe that if we sincerely follow our guidance and work steadily, good things will flow. We will be looked after.”

The house was rundown but fortunately Oliver is one of those people who can turn his hand to anything and has renovated the house (with the assistance of Audrey’s eye for design of course).

It is now an extremely warm and attractive family home. The energies seem to flow through it in the most harmonious way. The whole family is not only musical but artistic in other ways. And the house is full of beautiful little moments of art and design which give it a magical feeling of innocence and joy.

There is a Steiner school nearby where Audrey teaches singing and Oliver is once again working with people with disabilities. Oliver’s name, given by Ibu Rahayu, means “one who is caring and kind”. He describes his role in the family as the one who provides a space and an environment in which all the family members can thrive and develop to their full potential.

“I think our many moves have strengthened the children,” Oliver told me. “They have seen how it is possible to completely change the circumstances of your life while staying in touch with a firm foundation. They have seen that it is possible to dismantle your life and then put it back together again, better than it was before. I believe that this will enable them in their future lives to be able to cope well with change.”

Uplift Singing

While I was staying with them, Audrey and her eldest daughter, Rosalia, were in the process of creating a business based around group singing. Throughout her life, Audrey has continued running singing workshops for Subud and other communities. Now she wants to take this activity to another level.

The whole family is musical, and Rosalia is currently studying classical viola at the Hobart Conservatorium. She and Audrey work closely together designing and delivering singing workshops.

The business is called ‘Uplift Singing: A Fundamental Human Experience’ and they plan to expand their



The excellent Feng Shui of the house, cosily snuggled by protective hills.



The house has many warm, friendly and artistic touches.



Bennett's wallabies and guinea fowls in the back yard.

SIC A SECTION

singing workshops and courses into the corporate world, government departments and not for profit community organisations and initiatives. The aim of Uplift Singing is to enable as many people as possible to receive the benefits of group singing."

"Music brings joy and harmony and is an integral part of developing a healthy inner life" Audrey told me. "In recent years, it has been proven that group singing can reduce stress, promote good health and bring people closer together in a positive way – people come out of our workshop completely uplifted!"

"Being in a choir teaches you to listen closely to other people," said Rosalia, "Many people have a lot of fear around singing and when they find out they can do it, it really boosts their self-confidence."

"Being in a choir teaches you to be part of a team, so the work we do can have all kinds of spin-offs in the corporate arena," Audrey adds.

If you would like to know more about Uplift Singing, contact Audrey on Email: lonerganfam@gmail.com
Mob: ++61 (0)455 483 074.



A Subud Community

The family would love to see other Subud members moving to the area. Currently, there is a property of a couple of acres with a magnificent mud brick house for sale on one side of the Lonergan's land. A 13-acre property on the other side is also for sale and it has not been on the market for over 30 years.

"I think living here can be a very attractive proposition for both people in Australia and from overseas. We have travelled all over Australia and we have never found anywhere to compare with this."

"Here we have the best of everything, a beautiful, unspoiled environment around us, but also access to the cultural, educational and social assets a city can offer."

Hobart is a small, human-scale city with a population of only a quarter of a million people, but has a renowned Symphony Orchestra, a highly regarded University, and a world-class tourist attraction in MONA (Museum of New Art)."

If you would like to contact Oliver about real estate in Flowerpot, go to: Email: lonerganfam@gmail.com. Mob: ++61 (0)447 096 889

I Was Uplifted

Even though we didn't actually get to sing this time, I was very uplifted by my visit to the Lonergans.

One thing we talked about was their wish to host a Subud gathering. "We have wanted to organise an Australian Congress," Oliver and Audrey told me, but have not been able to find a suitable venue large enough in the whole of Tasmania."

We agreed that a good first step might be to host a smaller gathering, like a regional kejiwaan gathering. In Australia we are supposed to have Subud regions, like South-east Australia, for example, but they no >



Property for sale next door to the Lonergan's.

SICA SECTION

longer mean very much. This could be a good way to start bringing the idea of regions back to life.

Sometimes you meet people who have a lot to give other people. I think the Lonergan's fit into this category.

I would have liked to stay longer, but I took something with me back to the mainland from the Apple Isle. Some bright red apples from the trees in the Lonergan's backyard.



CUBA - Washi Masking Tape Installation – 10 03 2016

Veronica Herber writes...

I was planning to go to Cuba with my husband for a three-week trip. After the very fulfilling experience of creating a work for the Puebla World Congress I thought it would be wonderful to do collaboration with the Cuban Subud group through SICA. A small way to give something back to the Cuban people. (They have it pretty tough there; the average wage is US\$25.00 per month).

Alejandra Martinez, the Canadian CC put me onto Laura Daranas the local SICA rep in Havana. Laura herself is very creative, and an art history major and presently the assistant art director on her father's feature film. Her father is Ernesto Daranas a well-known Cuban film director.

Laura enlisted the help of Danella Irizar who works at the National Museum of Cuban art and together they found a site they thought would work for my installation. They had the help of Jose Eduardo, a well-known printmaker who had links with the Rene Portocarrero Serigrafia Print Studio.

So that was how it came about that I was given a corner of a beautiful print studio replete with ancient printing machinery and in pride of place a massive guillotine from the year 1908.

I assumed I could cover the machine in tape but no, no, no! It is still in full use!!, like many things in Cuba, machines, cars etc. never die or get tossed out; they just carry on, get repaired and live several lives over.

I had been travelling the island for 2 ½ weeks before the Havana leg, so I used that time to observe and absorb Cuban life, patterns, grids, walls, brickwork, even embroidery. By the time I got to make the installation piece I had several ideas that I practiced on a spare wall.

The tape I use is very hard edged (not Cuban), so I developed further my tearing technique from the small squares I am known for. I expanded the ripping along full lengths of tape, which were then inverted to create a softer, drawn edge, which was a mix of controlled and erratic and then created crosspieces to form a grid.

This is a pattern in itself but it encompasses what I saw, experienced and noticed as I travelled.



SICA SECTION

I needed help as I only had 5 days to install and the local Subud group, printmakers and even fellow casa particular guests (synchronistically they just happened to be artists from Canada passing through) joined in.

The Havana Subud group is a plethora of talent, not only the famous director Ernesto, but also printmakers, an opera singer and Asis and Munirah Borges Riego who's claim to fame is that they started Salsa in the 1960s!

So it really was SICA in action, a collaboration of many talents, cultures and friends. Very heart warming.

The installation has been allowed to stay and will be seen by the many visitors and tourists who come to the print shop which also has a long history and roll call of printmakers including Rene Portocarrero, himself, a world renowned Cuban artist who showed in Julien Levy's New York Gallery in 1945. ●

“ A SICA action, a collaboration of many talents, cultures and friends...”

Prisoner of the Sun

Imbert Matthee writes...

The unpaved Alaska-Canada Highway, fog on Half Moon Bay, Georgia O'Keefe's ranch in New Mexico, the gift of a Native American son: these are some of the treasures I found during my life in the American West and used as inspiration for my first album "Prisoner of the Sun."

The West always called me. I first saw it before the 1979 Subud World Congress in Toronto when I hitch-hiked my way across the continent and decided to return for good two years later. I have lived here 35 years now and thought I would finally share my musical journey as a singer songwriter.

Since last summer, I've been recording a collection of nine songs and one instrumental piece as varied as the lands that stretch from the Rockies to the Pacific. The musical derivatives on this album are rooted in folk, country rock, blues, jazz and south of several borders, bossa nova. Some are personal stories, some are protest songs, some have a groove that takes you places and some are poignantly melancholy.

I had the support of great musicians in the Seattle area who helped create the fabric for my guitar compositions and lead vocals. The album will be released late spring or summer this year. If you'd like more information and/or be on my mailing list, write me at Imbert.clearpath@gmail.com or look me up on Facebook. ●



Fotos in the Fog

Sachlan Cherpitel writes...

I apologize if you've seen this note already, as I have also posted it on all the FB Subud sites where I 'lurk'!

I've written a book titled *Fotos in the Fog* and term it a "literary melodrama". A drama is life with the boring parts taken out. A melodrama is a drama with action. (Definitions from Alfred Hitchcock & Samuel Fuller.)

I have literary pretensions about this book, which is cast as 'mainstream' or beyond genre classification, set in a fog-bound Marin County, California, in June 1958----a story of a kidnapping, rescue, multiple murders and persecution by relentless killers, centered around a wealthy dysfunctional family with a photographer >

SICA SECTION

and his girlfriend partner as the protagonists.

After many years of work, I believe the book is fairly finished and ready to seek a publisher; but I cannot be sure and will love hearing any ideas about how the book can be improved or embellished. As Dylan said, "if there's an original thought out there, I could use it right now."

You can read the first three chapters anonymously. They are posted in a zip file of a Word doc for download at

<http://www.efotobooks.com/fotos-in-the-fog.html> If you enjoy these and

want the other six chapters, please contact me at fog@foto3.com and I'll email the whole book as a Word doc. If you don't like it after reading the three chapters, you can either tell me so and WHY (please), or say nothing. (Bluntly critical responses preferred instead of diplomatic---if you know me personally, you know I'm pretty blunt myself.)

I've been told there's a spiritual sense to the book, thus I'm seeking responses from Subud members. ●

Spirit Road

Lucas Hille, Vancouver, has produced a new CD, Spirit Road. He writes...

For the past year, I have been working on a new CD/EP, and it's finally done! It's titled "Spirit Road", and it features some stellar musicians, including my daughter, Veda.

The cover art is by a Subud painter, Aisjah Cassidy; the back cover photo is by Simon Cherpitel, a Subud photographer, and the overall album design is by Arifin Graham, a successful and well-regarded designer – also a Subud member.

I feel very good and grateful about this album, as I sense (and some listeners are telling me) that the result of the latihan shines on this project.

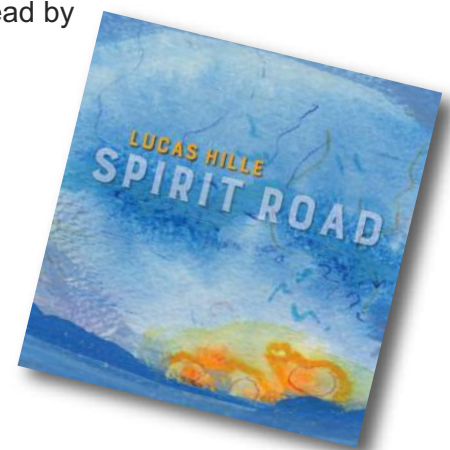
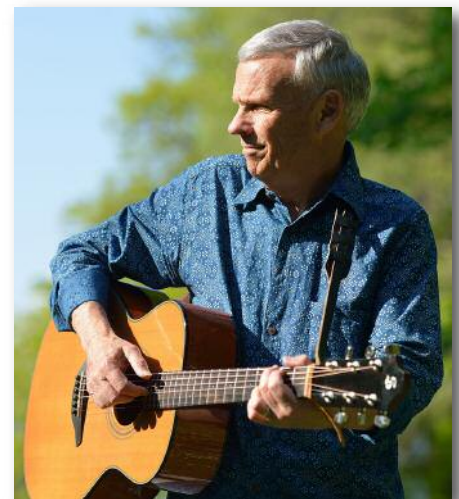
You can check it out at: lucashille.bandcamp.com

Harris Smart writes...

This is a beautiful collection of original songs with a spiritual resonance. The songs are gentle and simple. Lucas's warm voice sings over uncomplicated keyboard and guitar arrangements. There is definitely a light, peaceful, devotional feeling to these songs.

The opening track, "Breathe Out, Breathe In" is a poem written and read by Sophia-Ray Schmid, the 10-year-old daughter of a Subud member.

*Breathe out the alarming idea of fire
Breathe in the comfort of arms embracing you
Breathe out the dying trees that keep us alive
Breathe in a home for every soul
Breathe out the bloody scenes of war
Breathe in friends' love to fill empty hearts
Breathe out the polluted waters of the earth
Breathe in the word that explains so much:
Love.*



SICA SECTION

Brief descriptions of the background to the songs is included on the web site from where they can be downloaded. For instance, on "Spirit Road"...

"This song is a reference to Subud, my lifelong spiritual path. Kim Brandt, the guitarist, came up with a really cool rhythm guitar part, and we added lovely layers on top. I really like Lucy's violin solo too, and Veda's backing vocals."

Go to the web site and have a listen. There is beauty here and peace... lucashille.bandcamp.com

The poem

Of all the poems
in the books on the pages in the ear on the tongue
of all the poems
with their wandering pathways their minor discoveries
terrains where the footprints are everywhere
of all the poems
written rewritten rejected and cherished
only one
will be remembered.
There will be a mountain in it
and a tree or the feeling of a tree
a small bird singing by an open window
although none of these may be referred to specifically.
As you read it you will hear your voice
as though for the first time
singing as once you sang
laughing, crying as you used to.
There will be an ocean wave in it
early sunlight on wet leaves
the sigh of someone who has reached the other side of pain
although none of these may be referred to specifically.
And there will be elements in it
that only you will recognize
and that you may not be able to elucidate.
After you have read it
the poem will linger in you.
When all the conversations are completed

when the unspoken thoughts dissolve into silence
along with the dreams the memories
the aspirations and the passions
the poem will whisper in your ear
like the song your mother sang
when you awoke alone in darkness
like the light of a star that you looked at
before you forgot to look.
Somewhere in the house
where you have lived since you were born
a door will open
that you never knew was there
and everything you see
will tell you its name
the rocks will all open like mouths
and the springs they have ached for so long to release
will ripple and sing in the sun.

Only one of the poems
will be remembered
to write it
I would give my life
over and over again.

Emmanuel Williams

The Burning Question

Anthony Bright-Paul writes...



Why is it that Subud has not spread in the world?



My good friend Dr Rachman Mitchell wrote to me: - How can we share this latihan kejiwaan Subud that Bapak shared with us with more people? Yeah, yeah, Doctor, that is the question. Even Bapak himself tested in 1975 in Wolfsburg: - 'Why is it that Subud has not spread in the world?'

Reading that last night, after I exercised for some minutes in my garage fairly early in the morning, it suddenly occurred to me to test this question. 'Why is it that Subud has...' and then I stopped. I could not complete the question. It was as if it was entirely impertinent of me to even formulate such a question and I certainly could not utter it out loud.

After a few seconds my latihan began again, singing at full bore – triumphantly. It was as if we have no idea how Subud is spreading and if Subud is spreading or not. We do not know God's Will – yet by every exterior judgment our numbers are decreasing.

Since I have been re-reading 'The History of Subud' Part 1, I have been corresponding with Harlinah Longcroft. She points out and I agree that most of the people who came to Subud within Bapak's lifetime were already following some form of Tariquat. In fact we know that Bapak himself sought out kiais, or gurus, and that many of those opened in Indonesia were also seekers in just this same manner.

And when Bapak arrived in the west the first to be opened were followers of Gurdjieff and Ouspensky who were practising 'Work on Oneself'. So this was quickly followed by acolytes of Krishnamurti and the Theosophists; of Rudolf Steiner and the Anthroposophists; by the Quakers, followers of George Fox; and by Vedantins, followers of Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda, amongst others.

It sometimes seemed to me that Bapak in his lifetime mopped up most all of the seekers in the world. Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness...

When Bapak first gave his explanations at Coombe Springs in 1957 he was careful to explain only to those who had already been opened. In fact the very opening words of Book 1 on 14 June 1957 are: - For those of you who are not yet opened it is not time for you to listen to this...

So it was extremely interesting to me at least to find a letter in the History of Subud, where Bapak does give an explanation to someone not yet opened. In fact it is a letter to a Mr Joseph Busby the editor of The Voice in England.

Harlinah herself remarks that this reads like a mini-talk by Bapak to a non-Subud person and is in some way unique. I would have liked to type out the whole of this letter, but that would be a test of my typing skills too far. Perhaps Harlinah has it on her computer and could offer it to Subud Voice or The Subud Journal.

However it would be better by far for Subud Members who are unacquainted with the early days of Subud in Indonesia to buy the book for themselves and to imbibe its contents. Here we can see how Bapak himself explained how a person 'may in the end realise the true meaning of his life'. ●

Why Was He Saying This In Front of All These People?

Rachman Mitchell writes about Bapak's visit to Paris in ... and about "thinking too much"...

1964 was a year when Britain was at war with Indonesia, who had attacked its ally Malaysia. So Bapak could not come to the UK. Instead he went to Paris and, as many British Subud members as could make it, travelled there for a long weekend.

Our old friends, the Bright-Pauls (Eileen and Tony), looked after our two young children while we gave Marjam Kibble and Dorothy Stein a lift to Paris in our Renault 4.

A hotel room had been booked and Lavinia, Rohana's mother, was booked into the next room.

The flat that had been arranged for Bapak was not very large but somehow we all managed to get in. I >

say “all” but it must have been just a few of us because Bapak gave talks and held latihan daily in a large hall.

Bapak’s Unforgettable Mime

This was an important time for ex-Gurdjieff students of John Bennett because he was in the process of leaving Subud and returning to his old discipline of ‘The Work’, as he understood it. He was working on a theory of Systematics and I think he visited Paris at that time.



*You will never achieve your aim
in life if you think too much...*



In relation to that dilemma, Bapak did an unforgettable mime. He took out a packet of cigarettes and put them on the table in front of him. “ Say this packet of cigarettes is God.”

He then put the packet in the upper pocket of his shirt just above his heart. He then mimed John Bennett looking everywhere for “God”.

“But here all the time!” as he pats the packet of cigarettes in the upper pocket of his shirt.

As always, the feeling of the family was just so strong and we were riding on a cloud of this happiness, which always surrounded him.

Another Event I Will Never Forget

The next event is another one I will never forget.

Varindra was sitting next to Bapak and I was sitting directly opposite. I wanted to ask Bapak a question about the meaning of Pentecost in relation to the coming of Subud, but Varindra wanted to ask a question that was far more pertinent to him personally – the meaning of ‘Adam’s rib’.

I hardly listened so intent was I to get my question in.

At the end of Bapak’s explanation he looked directly across at me and said

“You will never achieve your aim in life if you think too much.”

I was furious. Why was he saying this to me in front of all these people when I already knew this was a personal weakness?

I drove around Paris at about 100 mph, so enraged was, endangering everyone. I woke up the next morning and began thinking about it and then said to myself, “Stop it!” and I did.

From then on my behaviour improved, at least for that glorious weekend. Our third child was conceived, the most self-disciplined and best behaved of all six of them. The other seed that was implanted that weekend was the wish and intention to go to Indonesia and spend time near to Bapak.

In June this year, 48 years later, we will visit Paris again with two of our grandchildren. ●

Bapak and Bennett

Robiyana Easty writes about Bapak and John Bennett and Bennett’s account of Subud in his book Witness...

Witness was the book that pointed me towards Subud. I found it in the house of my dear friends Leonard and Hannah Hurd (of SPI fame). It was a ‘lucky’ find as I had lost interest in philosophy and theory and wanted to read only about real people and their lives.

I later found it a little distressing to hear that Bennett had expunged all references to Subud from the second edition of *Witness*, especially as his writing about Subud in the first edition was to me, far more alive than his *Concerning Subud*. So I searched for and bought a used copy, from which the attached extracts are taken.

Bapak Talks about Bennett

In 1977 Bapak interrupted his farewell talk at the Subud UK congress (77 SWK 4) to talk about Bennett. I was standing in the tea queue later and mentioned to a very dear brother who had known Bennett in the early days that it was strange the way Bapak did that. ‘Yes’ he said, ‘but then I saw Bennett sitting in the front row’. Here’s what Bapak said:

'Bapak would like briefly to allude to our brother who has passed away, John Bennett, because John Bennett once said to Bapak, 'Bapak or Subud has stolen the teaching of Gurdjieff, and has stolen my teaching and my knowledge that I had before.' Bapak didn't contradict him, and didn't in any way try to oppose him. Bapak only said, 'Never mind, later on you will see.'

'And it is true that later on, many years later, maybe at a time when his health was failing, John Bennett wrote to Bapak and said, 'I regret very much if I said at one time something that was wrong or incorrect, because what I know now for certain is that the latihan kejiwaan of Subud is within me all the time and it is impossible for me to leave behind the latihan kejiwaan, or be free from the latihan kejiwaan, for it is within me when I sleep and when I wake and throughout all my activities.'

'But even so, even though he said this towards the end of his life, yet he had to undergo something that was a trial for him. But nevertheless Bapak still prays to God Almighty that God will bless his soul or his jiwa in accordance with his service and his good deeds while he was still alive. This is a brief interlude in which Bapak wanted to mention the name of our brother, John Bennett.'

Here is an extract from Witness in which Bennett talks about Subud – pp 367 and 368 (part)

THE DECISIVE EXPERIENCE

...I had no doubt that Subud had helped me and those nearest to me.

The Subud Congress was, above all, evidence that harmony in diversity was an aim that could be realized on earth. Observing the changes that had come over people in two short years, I saw that true individuality was beginning to emerge. I saw men and women losing their fears, and their dependence on others. They were insisting upon finding their own way and refusing to follow a lead even if it was given by Pak Subuh himself.

The change I had observed in myself, from dependence towards inward freedom, was to be seen in many others also. Subud was achieving what Gurdjieff had declared to be the most pressing need of modern man: liberation from the suggestibility and credulity that make men into slaves. Looking at the followers of Subud, I could not help contrasting their sturdy independence with the passive conformism of those who had remained in the Gurdjieff groups.

'How can it be,' I asked myself, 'that Gurdjieff, whose avowed aim in life had been to break down the habit of slavish dependence upon others, has left behind him such a legacy?'

I then recalled Gurdjieff's own law of Heptaparaparsshinockh, according to which any process that does not receive an appropriate shock from outside must inevitably change direction and finally become its own opposite. I had seen this law verified in countless situations large and small and had no doubt that it stands for a great, if dreadful, truth. Might it not be that Subud should have provided just the shock required to save Gurdjieff's work from becoming its own opposite?

If so, we had all failed; but repining was useless, and the future had to be faced. The eschatological mood of 1957, when it seemed that such extraordinary events might occur as would turn all eyes to Subud, had



John Bennett with Bapak and Ibu Siti Sumari.

passed. We no longer expected spectacular miracles. What was happening was, to us who were in the midst of it, more important than marvels.



If authority goes, society must rise or fall...



We had seen the seed fertilized and sown and were now watching it germinate. Germination depends upon outward conditions: warmth and moisture, air and food. Subud in its germination needed analogous environmental conditions and these largely depended on us and our capacity for understanding. We were proving to be sadly incompetent gardeners.

The immediate effect of the latihan on people was obvious: they were changing physiologically and psychologically, but they were still largely isolated from one another. In the process of throwing off the shackles of outward discipline and dependence upon others they were interested, above all, in their own private experiences. They were discovering God for themselves, and little else mattered to them.

The discovery could be almost unconscious: no more than the assurance that they were in the Presence of a power greater and wiser than themselves; at the same time not remote or indifferent but within their own inmost consciousness.

Only a few, perhaps, would have been ready to express themselves as definitely as this, but among those who had continued to practise the latihan for two years and more, there was get an unmistakable awakening of the religious sense: that is, of a real and personal relationship with God. It was this that made them feel that they no longer needed any human help.

This was admirable but it was also devastating. We are accustomed to achieve our purposes through the exercise of authority and the relationship of leader and led. The active minority, the oligarchs, and the passive majority, the demos or proletariat, had, for two and a half millennia retained their relative status through all the changes of political and social forms. Those whom Subud had awakened could no longer tolerate this relationship.

But if authority goes, society must either fall into chaos or rise into harmony. We could not tell which fate awaited our Subud Brotherhood.

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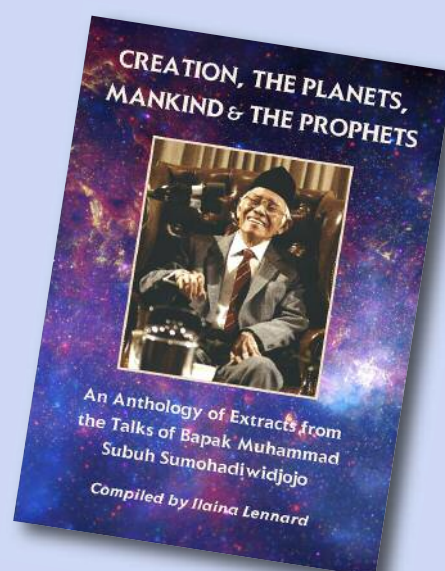
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Passing of Markus Hoff Berge

Taufik Waage writes...

I was just informed last night that yesterday evening at eight o'clock Markus Hoff Berge passed away in a hospital in Oslo. As you may know he was a long standing member of Subud World Council and chairman of MSF from 1993-1997. Markus was just 82 years old March 19th this year.

I had the privilege to work with him and Rukman Hundeide in the Subud Scandinavian committee in the seventies when Subud Scandinavia had the chairmanship of what later became Zone 4. Later on he started ICDP with Rukman, Lailah Armstrong Henning Rye and Wilbert Verheyen.

He also had his own enterprise Flochem which he started together with Sachlan Crona.

He had a stroke some years ago and it made him more careful travelling long distances. As long as Rukman was alive (Rukman died in 2011), Markus, Henning and Rukman met for their ICDP latihan usually every Wednesday, but in recent years Henning (he is also 82 years old) has picked up Markus just for the Sunday latihan in the Subud house in Oslo.

I attach a photo taken of Markus, who is smiling his typical smile. I also sent Ibu this photo on her birthday. I know that she was very fond of Markus and they were together in the WSC in the time after Bapak passed away.

Markus also worked very closely with Varindra. And Varindra wanted him to take over as World Council chairman after him. As Markus had just started his enterprise then and was also involved in ICDP, he did not feel he could do it, so he ended up as the second chairman of MSF instead.

He was a person who got a lot of responsibility in the time just after Bapak and Varindra's deaths. I think those who knew him would say that Markus was a very capable and kind person.

I met him just shortly before his birthday in the Subud house in Oslo along with five other Subud members in their early eighties. I will miss him for sure.

Hamida Thomas writes from Susila Dharma International....

On behalf of Susila Dharma International Association and also myself, I want to share with you our deepest condolences on the passing of our brother Markus, who was the generous spirit and such a good example of balancing the entrepreneurial with the social consciousness – through his support to ICDP and other SD projects around the world.

He will be sorely missed.



“ *A kind and capable person...* ”

THEY WERE THERE – the Best of Subud Voice

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Subud Britain Congress Update

The Congress Team had their first team meeting up at Culford on the weekend of 17 April and it was a very productive day. We did latihan together first and then had a tour around the site to help us decide where to locate things such as the café and the camping. The site offers us all so much potential to play, perform, provide workshops and get creative and also to develop our spiritual selves. It is going to be fantastic for the kids as well with loads of space to roam and the SuFA team are developing an exciting programme of events to keep all our little darlings entertained!

We followed our tour with a meeting where we demonstrated an amazing ability to reach consensus despite different views over the location of the café (from which all else stems as it is such a central hub and meeting point for those attending congress). It was a beautiful thing to see such consensus developing with respect and care for each other and the solution we have devised is going to serve the needs of the site and the gathering really well and we are very excited about it.

We are going to need lots of volunteers to make this and other aspects of Congress happen though so please consider joining the volunteer programme. We especially need people to arrive early on the Sunday to be briefed to act as stewards to help arrivals and people finding their bearings at this new site. Please talk to Donald when you book if you are able to offer this. Booking details are at subudbritaincongress.co.uk or you can call Donald on +44 (0)7855 640686.

If you have a workshop idea please email congressprogramme@subud.org.uk to discuss this. Remember, we depend on you to enrich our time there with your workshop offerings!

TEAM VACANCIES

We are still searching for a Congress treasurer. We are also looking for a second site manager to join Maxwell Betts in this demanding and rewarding role. Meals and accommodation during the week will be provided free of charge and we would expect you to be able to be there for most, if not all, of the set-up period which begins on 5 August. This role involves raising marquees, problem solving and helping with room set-ups for delegate sessions etc.

Please email congress.organisers@subud.org.uk if you are interested in taking on either roles.

Don't forget to book your Congress place before the early bird prices end on 26 June!!! We look forward to welcoming you to Congress. *Lots of love, your congress organisers; Lucas, Donald and Amanda*



The St. Anne's Project

The St. Anne's Project Team has shown great passion and commitment in pursuing their dream to create an exciting new home for their Group.

However, for the reasons set out in the Explanation below, Subud Britain's Trustees made the difficult decision not to proceed with the Project on Sunday 17 April.

This in no way reflects on Subud Britain's wish to support groups, who out-grow their premises. We would very much like to assist the Lewes Group to find a solution, perhaps by re-developing Subud Britain's two properties on the Station Street site.

We acknowledge that the Lewes Group are experiencing sadness and loss. We especially remember David Anderson, who put so much of himself into the Project and is now sadly gone. I would also like to thank the Team for their many hours of dedication and unpaid work. A big thank you to Simon Milan, for his patient and even-handed presence.

Naturally members of the St Anne's Project Team are disappointed. See their letter to the Trustees on next page. I regret any misunderstanding there might be about the level of consultation with the Team prior to the decision being relayed to East Sussex County Council.

The decision not to proceed was made during a long conference call, following which our lead negotiator and the St Anne's Project Team Leader were contacted with a view to consulting before the East Sussex County Council was informed the following day. While any misunderstanding is regrettable, any shortcomings were a result of miscommunication rather than any deliberate intention to exclude.

It has been both a privilege and a steep learning curve to take part in this process. It has often involved dealing with difficulties and disagreements, but we managed to work with each other.

I ask forgiveness for any shortcomings and mistakes and hope we can find a way to forgive and understand each other in order to go forward together. There were many dedicated people who gave of themselves freely because of their common dedication to Subud and the latihan. *Daphne Alexopoulou – Subud Britain National Chair*



Daphne Alexopoulou – Subud Britain National Chair.

TRUSTEES EXPLANATION

On Sunday 17 April the Trustees of Subud Britain (SB) took the decision not to support the St Anne's Project in Lewes.

This difficult decision, made after many hours of deliberation both on Sunday and in preceding weeks, weighed up many factors both for and against the project. In the final analysis the Trustees, mindful that their underlying role is to protect the assets of the Charity as a whole, noted that, amongst other things:

1. The quality of the land title on offer from East Sussex County Council (ESCC) had deteriorated significantly, having changed from a freehold sale and then in recent weeks from an offer of a 999 year lease to 125 years with restrictive conditions on the use of the site and a requirement to take on the maintenance liability of a collapsing historic boundary wall that could cost SB considerable sums to repair.

2. The consistent recommendation of the Trustees' independent financial advisers (including a Chartered Financial Analyst, a Chartered Accountant with experience in the finances of charities and community projects, a Real Estate Investment Professional and an experienced banker) was that the project could not be supported because of the extent of the potential financial risks and uncertainties posed in the project. In particular, the level of debt required to fund the project posed a material level of risk to the Charity. Consideration had been given to solutions to reduce the potential debt burden but none were realistically achievable in the timescales allowed.

3. We were advised that the underlying financial reserves of SB would be insufficient to support the project costs in the event of any default in loan repayment or shortfall by the project. The overall risk identified by a detailed overview of the St Anne's plan in respect of future funding streams, or expansion of the project didn't provide sufficient confidence that the scheme could be self-financing.

4. The change from a freehold site to a 125 year lease with restrictive conditions meant that there was no clear exit

strategy should the project costs become too high for Subud Britain to manage. A number of valuers were contacted to opine on the value of the site with the restrictions placed on it but none considered themselves able to assess a possible value. When combined with what we were advised was a high debt burden, this represented an uncomfortable level of risk.

5. There is a current project underway to assess the level of repair and maintenance cost to other Subud owned buildings which the Trustees were mindful would involve some spending in future years and a potential strain on our resources.

The potential benefits of the project are well known and accepted – larger latihan space for the Lewes group and an opportunity for Subud to serve a local community. However, primarily due to the issues identified above the Trustees determined that the extent of the risks outweighed the potential benefits of the project. In addition, the pressures for ESCC to complete the lease arrangements quickly did not leave any option other than to reject support for the project.

The Trustees would like to thank all members of the Lewes team and others who have supported this project tirelessly and mostly working unpaid during the development of the proposals.

The Trustees wish to make clear that they fully understand the desire of the Lewes Group to provide more effective Latihan space and in due course will wish to support them in exploring financially viable alternative options.

Whilst this will be a disappointing outcome to those closely involved, the project overall had demonstrated real strength in our ability to work together and this should not be forgotten. The time and effort put into this project by the St Anne's team and all concerned is not wasted as much has been learnt that can help us in the future.

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SUBUD BRITAIN FROM THE ST. ANNE'S TEAM, LEWES GROUP

We have received your final decision regarding the St Anne's project. We are very disappointed in how this decision was reached and subsequently acted upon, by-passing the St Anne's team and going directly to East Sussex County Council to inform them of your decision. No one took the time to ask us how we would feel about this or whether there was any mileage in trying to extract a last minute concession from them. The respectful thing to have done would have been to pause a while, and let us know what your reasons for declining the project were, we were officially only advised after you had already approached ESCC. Your actions made St Anne's team's work feel irrelevant and disregarded.

In the final meeting with the trustees & the advisors, the St Anne's team started to feel listened to and understood, but this was a meeting that needed to happen near the beginning of the process, not at the end, when it was too late, we still feel some of the trustees do not understand the potential and vision behind the project.

The search for larger premises for the Lewes group has been active for more than 5 years; in that time there have been very few opportunities, and none that were affordable. St Anne's provided a unique opportunity.

Our expectation was that together we could resolve sticking points with the ESCC, and find creative and practical solutions that would enable this project to happen. In this you have failed us.

And while we believe that all the trustees tried to make the right decisions for Subud Britain; we wish to make it clear that an organisation with a top-down structure actually limits what a grass-roots movement like Subud can achieve at group level. This has been proven over and over again: nothing much has happened within Subud in the UK for decades, and once again Subud Britain has failed to support the endeavours of their members and the largest and most dynamic group in Britain.

Perhaps our expectations of the trustees were too high, all volunteers, and too far removed from Subud Lewes to make a decision on a project such as St Anne's. With a few notable exceptions the trustees had a hands off approach to what was without doubt the most important thing happening in Subud right now.

Clearly Subud Britain's governance is unsuitable to support groups that have the energy, business skills and entrepreneurial spirit to develop and grow.

As a charity, one of SB's responsibilities is indeed to safeguard its assets (which are its properties), but to what end. You appear to us as being more concerned with the financial assets than the human assets which are the members and the members projects. We maintain that the financial assets of SB only have value when used to advance the

aims of the organisation which are after all its 'raison d'être'.

This must stop, otherwise Subud will end with this generation. SB membership will decline further and all the assets will become unsustainable and irrelevant. The development model that SB subscribes to is not working and Subud in Britain is failing. This is largely to do with the governance structure, lack of vision and the courage to support their members and groups in any meaningful way.

If SB really want to help, then realising this would be a major step in the right direction. The power must go back to the groups. The idea that SB knows what is best for its members is a misconception. The groups, and especially well established groups, know what is best for their members. This has been totally disregarded; rather than finding ways to support our efforts and vision, SB want to tell us what to do. We are no longer prepared to support the existing model of top-down governance.

The growth and health of Subud as a spiritual organisation is, in our view, at risk, as SB is unable to help its members to flourish. It is an organisation we have lost confidence in; having said that, we want to make it clear this is not critical of the majority of existing trustees, who we believe were placed in an impossible situation.

The group must now regroup and heal. We will no doubt be in touch when we have taken stock. Until now suffice it to say we believe this is a sad day for us all as we yet again prove our inability to work together constructively and respectfully. With hard work, your support and the blessings of the Almighty we could have achieved so much together.

Passing of Pak Sumbin

Mansur Geiger writes...

Our original jungle buddy, Pak Sumbin, passed away this evening...May God bless him... A remarkable old friend and supporter from the beginning...

Matthew Mayberry writes...

I love and have loved Pak Sumbin almost from the day I met him in Tumbang Muri on our Expedition #1. He made a lot of things possible and much easier for us. My prayers are for his blessing forever by the grace, mercy and power of Almighty God and that the doors of God's heavenly Kingdom be opened wide to receive his spirit.



Pak Sumbin and Mansur Geiger last year.

Mansur continues...

Pak Sumbin our original jungle guide and local Dayak elder passed away on the 23rd of April at the age of 96 years.

He was a highly intelligent, humorist, tireless, religious Christian man and father of 12 children who believed in and supported Bapak's vision of creating a mine to facilitate local development for the benefit of the local people.

In the early years he was the core of our building strong and close relations with the local community and was an original founding member of YTS (Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta) in 1997.

He was opened in 2004 after which he said "what a remarkable thing to be able to call upon God's Grace at any time".

Over the years he and his family became my Dayak family. They taught me how to love and enjoy life with very little.

God Bless, Pak Sumbin, a remarkable old friend and supporter from the beginning. He will be loved and respected by many.

“ Loving and enjoying life with very little... ”



Pak Sumbin.

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