



## Message from Ibu Rahayu to the Americas gathering

*Pamulang, 5th August 2016*

To my Subud brothers and sisters on the American continent who are attending the Subud Gathering of the Americas. As an elder sister in Subud, I thank Almighty God who has guided Subud members in the countries of the Americas to complete the preparations for the Subud Gathering of the Americas on time. As such, I really value the members who have become committee members and helpers and who have truly carried out their duties and responsibilities by preparing for this gathering.

It seems that it was only a short time ago that I received reports from the Subud World Congress. And now steps are being taken to prepare for the next congress to be held in two years time. We have to start the preparations now and to spread the word about the next congress.

In Subud's recent history, the last Subud World Congress in Mexico, North and South America demonstrated what Subud can be. Through feelings of openness and a strong family feeling, a unique atmosphere was created. Gatherings like the last congress and this one, demonstrates to other groups that Subud is an association that is legal, and that it has procedures and rules to guide those people who become Subud members.

As our latihan develops, supplemented by the explanations in Bapak's talks, we realise we have two obligations in life. The first is to strive and work to meet our needs for our life in this world. The second is to strive and work to prepare ourselves for the life in the hereafter.

But if we are conscious of it, in more developed countries, where our lives are growing more dependent on technology, Subud will need to make even greater efforts. Due to the influence of technology, many members have stopped doing latihan, or object to coming to do latihan at the latihan hall. They prefer to do it at home. And there are other reasons.

Indeed, life always brings things to keep us busy. But we must ensure, even though we are busy, that we focus on what is important, on what will be helpful and bring goodness to people, in particular to people in Subud who are united in the latihan, and who can feel the need to safeguard the authenticity and purity of Subud.

This is why harmony - working together, getting along in our work or when we carry out the duties that we have - is always encouraged in Subud. Disharmony is created not by God but by people who wish to pursue their self interest, to get their way, and to be right.

But with the guidance of Almighty God through the latihan, God willing, the members who have been long in Subud now have the capacity to be introspective. By being introspective, you can



*Ibu Rahayu.*

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put right your mistakes and shortcomings by yourself.

This concludes my advice for this congress, to substitute for my inability to be there at the gathering. God willing, with God's blessings, the gathering will run peacefully and smoothly and be a success.

Finally, at the last World Subud congress, our brother Elias was chosen to be the WSA Chair for the 2014-2108 period. It means that the policies for Subud's development are in his hands. But Elias realises that without support from all parties, and without God's blessing, his duty would be a very heavy one. So, let it be that Subud members in many countries will act with complete faith to assist and escort Subud's growth in the world.

Have a wonderful congress,  
*Ibu Siti Rahayu Wiryohudoyo.*

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## WSA Meets in Spain



*The WSC meeting in Spain 2016. About 50 people attended including observers.*

The 2016 WSC meeting was held in beautiful September weather in Salobrena, a coastal tourist town in southern Spain, about an hour's drive from Malaga. About 50 people including observers attended the meeting which included the official opening of the new Subud house in Orgiva.

One of the main topics discussed was the Archives. It has always been part of the archives plan that duplicate repositories of the Archives should reside in various parts of the world including Indonesia and Australia. The Archives now plans to bring these two centers together and make an assessment of the resources. What do we need to do now? How will we fund it?

Indonesia has some valuable assets including storage places such as one of the side rooms in the Cilandak latihan hall. On the other hand, there are also advantages in Australia where there is expertise and a better climate for archival storage; but there is only a small Subud group to support the endeavour.

The work of linking Bapak's Travel Log to his talks continues. It is important, particularly for future generations, that the two records be synchronized to ensure there is no confusion about the provenance of talks. This is a major expenditure but should be done now.

The delegates worked on drawing up a vision statement for Archives.

### Translating Bapak's Talks

SPI is pushing ahead with its mission to retranslate all of Bapak's talks. The task is urgent because of the special insight and knowledge of members of Bapak's family, and people who have >

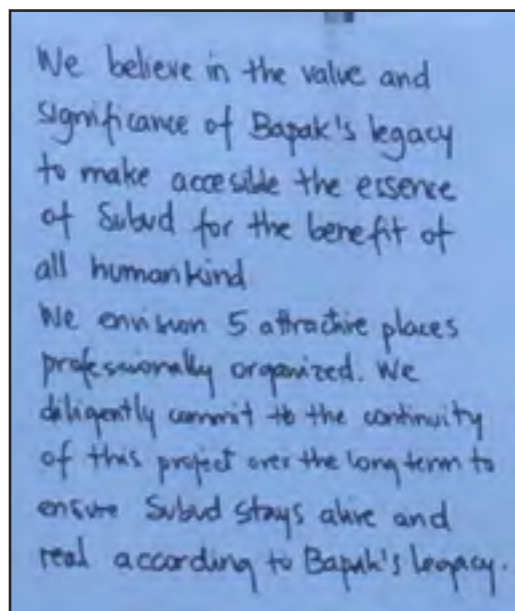
worked closely with Ibu and Bapak such as Raymond Lee and Sharif Horthy.

Members of Bapak's family in particular, such as Tuti and Muti, have a special understanding and sensitivity to the precise and nuanced meanings of Bapak's language. The urgency is that the translation of Bapak's talks is now only up to the 1971 World Congress with many more talks still to be translated.

An issue that came up were changes that were needed to the WSA Bye-laws. For instance, the chairs of certain entities within Subud such as the Archives and the CARE Team are not directly appointed at Congress, but are appointed by WSC. The bye-laws affecting them, such as the term of a Chair's appointment, need to be drawn up in order to be presented to the World Congress in 1918.

Speaking of the World Congress, the meeting responded very positively to the presentation by Rominda, the Chair of the World Congress organizing committee. Congress arrangements are in extremely strong and capable hands.

To support the planning of World Congress, the WSC meeting will be held in September 2017 in a town near the World Congress site of Freiburg. In this way, all the members of WSC will be fully informed about the World Congress arrangements.



*Archives Mission Statement.*

### Advice and Guidance to Helpers

Work is progressing well on the new "Helpers' Handbook" ("Bapak's Advice and Guidance to Helpers"). Improvements include retranslating some quotations of Bapak's which had only previously been in provisional translation. Some previous content may be eliminated and the new book is likely to be a more compact volume.

The "helpers' book" will be accompanied by a second volume explaining the committee side of things. It is being referred to as the "white book" or more officially "Subud and the outer world".

Another major topic was Subud centers. How to support them? Can they be helped to become more enterprising? And of course there was discussion of WSC's own administration including the best software to manage our complex organization in the most efficient way.

Representatives of all the Wings were present and discussed how they can come up with projects on which they can all work together. The Basara Youth Camp in Rungan Sari in December is an example of the Wings working together.

Naturally, one of the most important items was the budget. Speaking in general terms, the budget for the last few years has hovered around the US\$500,000 mark. This is made up of (again roughly) US\$100,000 from the zones; US\$100,000 from MSF; US\$140,000 from enterprises, and the remainder from individuals.

There is an urgent need to expand and stabilize income, particularly by increasing the contributions from the Zones and from Enterprises. WSC is looking for innovative ways to do this.

### OPENING THE NEW ORGIVA SUBUD HOUSE

Viktor Boehm writes about the opening of the new latihan halls in Orgiva...

On 24th Sept. 2016 in the afternoon, a mini-bus and several cars drove from the WSC council meeting in Solabrena on the Mediterranean coast to Orgiva in the near mountains.

For this day was planned the opening ceremony of the new Subud House which includes two latihan halls of 90m<sup>2</sup>, with a common room of 60m<sup>2</sup> between them, and a big terrace and garden. >





### *At the opening of the new Subud house in Orgiva.*

The Orgiva group has planned and collected money for this building in the last two years and started with work early 2016. Even one week before the ceremony it seemed that they would not finish this latihan hall but finally all work was mostly finished and the latihan could take place with over 100 participants in two groups, first the ladies and then the men. The women prepared many cakes and drinks.

The location of the building is excellent in front of the Serra Nevada background landscape. The architect, Marc Vouga, made a beautiful Mediterranean design and optimized climatic heat circulation in a one storey building.

For the opening ceremony many speeches were delivered and there was Flamenco music, dancing and songs. Marc was thanked for his initiative. Finally, the group chair Andrew Bromley took the MSF placard from Marston Gregory, MSF-chair. MSF had contributed US\$50,000 for the construction of the new building.

Go to page 32 of this issue to read more about the amazing Orgiva group and their latihan halls. This issue is like a giant sandwich sandwiched between slices of Orgiva and Orgiva with lots of tasty and nutritious goodies in between.

*Thanks to Hadrian Fraval and Viktor Boehm for input and photographs for this article.*

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## For Future Generations *From the editor*

I don't often write an editorial, but I thought I would this time for once. I really like this issue of Subud Voice. I actually feel quite proud of every issue of Subud Voice we do. They are all my children, so to speak, and I love them all. There must be about 200 of them now, these children of mine, since I've been doing the magazine every month since January 2000.

### **The Artefact**

I like Subud Voice just as an artefact, quite apart from what's in it. I think it has a really good look. I personally enjoy it as a thing to look at and "handle" as well as to read.

Every month I gather together this jumble of bits and pieces, texts and photos and all the rest of it, and I send the bundle off to Marcus Bolt in England and he turns it into a beautiful thing. Wouldn't it be wonderful if it was a beautiful PRINTED thing you could actually hold in your hands?

But even as a Phantom living on the Internet, I think this magazine is amazingly beautiful. In fact, it's better on the internet in lots of ways as we can produce all the pics in brilliant, beautiful colour which we never could do in print.

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## Jampacked

This is a really jampacked issue and not everyone likes that. Some people complain that we give them too much. Our magazine is only supposed to be 16 pages and every issue it runs into the early 20s, and now this time we have a really mammoth issue. Some people say to us, "Stop! No more! Pare down! Enough already!"

But what I figure is you don't have to read it. You don't have to read it all. You can just skim through it and read the things you want to. There is no law that says you have to read it all just because it's there.

## How to Read Subud Voice

If I was a person reading Subud Voice, the first thing I would do would be just skim through the whole magazine quickly. I would look at the headlines and the photos and the little bits of text we quote from the article. In this way I would get a complete overview of the magazine. And then I would go back and read the articles that particularly interested me.

Anyway, when we do Subud Voice, we are not just thinking of our current crop of readers. We are thinking of the generations to come. We are doing this for eternity. We are doing this for the people who are going to be around in 800 years. Remember, Bapak once said that Subud would go for 800 years. Well, we're doing this for those people.

We are an archive. In the future people will want to come and look at Subud Voice to find out how life was in the "early days of Subud". We are kind of an "Acts of the Apostles". We are living close to the source. We are living close to the time when things happen.

How amazed people in future generations will be to think "Those people actually knew Bapak. Those people heard him talk. How amazing it must have been to live in those days! Those pioneering people made the mistakes so we didn't have to make them. They put the manure into the soil that has enabled us to reap the crop we have harvested."

## A Living Archive, a Chronicle

So we want Subud Voice to be a living archive, the "Chronicles of Subud". There used to be a magazine, as I recall, called Subud Chronicle. Well that's always been our aim too, to chronicle Subud.

I hope you enjoy this issue. I think it is totally amazing what we do each month. You know, we are a staff of three pathetically old people, Harris, Marcus and Ilaina, and one younger person, Kitka, who looks after our online needs. It is totally amazing what we do on the basis of practically no income. (Thank you people who have recently made generous donations!)

## Highlights in this Issue

There so many highlights in this issue. I don't know where to begin. Certainly, totally amazing, is the article which comes up after you finish reading this editorial. This amazing photographic exhibition in Kalimantan by Bjorn Vaughn.

What else is great? Let me see here... Oh yeah, there's a very interesting article by Latifah Taormina about her Poems for Peace.

What else, what else? So many good articles. What about this one by Lynnelle Stewart about surviving Hurricane Matthew through prayer? Go and look for yourself, skim like I suggested, I'm sure you'll find something you are totally fascinated by.

## Holiday Reading

So, I look at this issue of Subud Voice as providing holiday reading. Don't complain that it is too



*We are doing this for  
eternity...*



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much. Save some of it for the Christmas/New Year period.

You know how it is, around Christmas and New Year, all the newspapers publish these supplements with lots of articles in them for you to read while you are relaxing on your holidays.

Well, I guess this issue of Subud Voice is like that. Packed with holiday reading. So even if you don't read it all straight away you can save it to read over the holidays.

*Love to you all, Harris, Marcus, Ilaina and Kitka*

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## In the Forest exhibition

*Mansur Geiger writes...*

The article below from the Jakarta Post is by Erik Meijaard, regarding the "In the Forest Exhibition" organized by Bjorn Vaughn at the time of the Global Initiative Network (GIN) conference hosted by our school BCU and Rungan Sari.

Erik is a renowned conservation scientist and writer who was in Rungan Sari attending the YTS semi-yearly board meeting.

The GIN conference was attended by approx 300 school students from all over Asia and Indonesia.. to discuss and learn about the global issues our world is facing today, with a focus on the environment.

Bjorn's exhibition, located in the forest of Kedung Djati was really the center piece to this 3-day event.

The event was really a testimony to our ability to do really great things together and with others, when we just do, without other personal interests in mind.

The exhibition, which was opened by the mayor of Palangka Raya, certainly put BCU and Rungan Sari on the map. This was confirmed to me by several students and accompanying teachers saying, "We want to come back soon."

The exhibit is looking for sponsors to take it on the road if anyone is interested and able to assist.

Contact: Bjorn Vaughn email: [bevaughn@gmail.com](mailto:bevaughn@gmail.com) To see the exhibition as a .pdf click the link: <http://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/ForestExhibition.pdf>

Or read on to the Jakarta Post article.

### *"I AM THE FOREST" EXHIBITION REVEALS KALIMANTAN'S MAGNIFICENT WILDLIFE*

Erike Meijard an ecologist who coordinates the Borneo Future – Science for Change initiative, writes about the exhibition in Kalimantan organised by Bjorn Vaughn...



*< Otong is a male Bornean orangutan toddler and a victim of last year's haze disaster. Although Otong is blind in one eye, he is a confident climber and his caretakers at the Protect Our Borneo orangutan sanctuary are preparing him for his eventual release back into the wild.(JP/Björn Vaughn)*

*This may be the most intriguing orangutan picture ever. I have seen thousands of orangutan pictures over the years, and I have become a little blasé about them. But something struck me about this photo. The beautiful orangutan baby looks up with shining eyes, face thoughtful but pensive; might there be a faint trace of a smile.*

*It reminds me of Mona Lisa's enigmatic expression, although, admittedly, unlike the little orangutan, Mona Lisa did not have a dead leaf stuck in her hair. Could there be a better way to visualize the struggle Indonesia's orangutans face, the >*



inherent sadness, but also the hope that it will all work out in the end?

This is “I am the Forest”, a photo exhibition set up in the middle of a forest area in Rungan Sari, near Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan. I was there to participate in the opening of the Global Issues Network environmental youth conference attended by 300 students and workshop facilitators from Kalimantan, Jakarta, Bali, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Australia.

I am the Forest is treading in the footsteps of “Je Suis Charlie” or “Je Suis Paris”. Like those, it is a clever concept. A trail of photos along a boardwalk showcases Borneo’s magnificent wildlife. The photos portray mammals, birds, snakes and insects that could be found around you in the forest. You could be looking at a photo of an animal that might be looking at you at the same time from underneath a leaf or from a tree hole.

(Read also: *Wildlife trafficking needs to be a policy priority in Asia Pacific before it is too late*)



< A rare Bornean frogmouth perches on a branch above the photo exhibition venue, looking back at people.(JP/Björn Vaughn)

Cynics might ask why we should bother to look at photos if the wildlife is actually there, but to me the idea worked well. And interpreted from a different angle, the symbolism of wildlife photos displayed in a forest may signify a future state when all we have left are photos of what was once there. That’s a less cheerful thought.

Students observe photographs of flora and fauna native to > Kalimantan. Many of the species represented in the pictures live in the environment where the exhibition venue is located. (JP/Björn Vaughn)

You can follow the trail in different directions. One path, flanked by collages containing news headlines, children’s thoughts and drawings about the past 20 years of burning in Kalimantan, leads to the iconic photo taken by Bjorn Vaughn of the 2015 fires in Kalimantan. A large canvas suspended in the forest shows the hellish fire and brimstone state the forest can turn into when set alight. The series of photos taken when the Kalimantan air turned a deep orange and people died from smoke inhalation went globally viral and helped tremendously to put pressure on the Indonesian government to stop the fires once and for all.



< Burning peatland is seen in Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan. Uncontrolled peat fires can spread for kilometers underground and by air, causing a deadly smog. In 2015, this resulted in one of the greatest environmental disasters of the 21st century.(JP/Björn Vaughn)

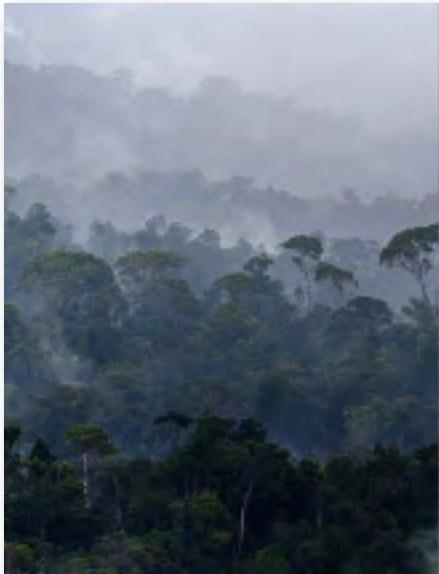
Another path in I am the Forest leads to the conversation circle, built around the word play between conservation, conversation and conversion. The circle is bordered by two panels that show the polar opposites of nature conservation and forest con- >

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version for oil palm. And it cleverly explained that the world is not as black and white as many opponents in the palm oil debate make it out to be. An oil palm is just a tree. It is not evil. Many people here love it. And it is not going to go away. Somehow we have to recognize that the key question about oil palm is not whether it will be developed, but how.

I actually didn't "get" the conservation circle, or at least I had quite a different interpretation. I thought it smartly captured the idea of conservation. Nature conservation is generally done by a bunch of committed, somewhat otherworldly people, who are trying to push their mission onto society – I know, because I'm one of them. Like the missionaries of old we preach that the end of the world will come unless human kind learns to better look after this planet.

(Read also: *WWF initiates green economy in Kalimantan conservation area*)



< A misty morning is pictured in the rainforest of Central Kalimantan — a source of clean air, regulator of climate and home to thousands of plant and animal species including the now critically endangered Bornean orangutan. (Greenpeace via Björn Vaughn/Ulet Ifansasti)

But preaching from the pulpit often ends up as one-way communication, not a conversation. For success in conservation we need to improve the two-way conversation part of our work. Because what we want to achieve is conversion, not of forests but of society. We want people to think and behave fundamentally differently and that is not easily achieved by pontificating only.

This is an exhibition well worth visiting. It officially opens on Oct. 2, so if you are heading there anyway, you should drop by. And if you are not heading here, think about doing so. Central Kalimantan has avoided the fires this year; the air is clear. Visit Rungan Sari, or go on a WowBorneo riverboat trip and see those orangutans alive in the forest. Or for the more adventurous travellers, go even further upriver and travel deep into the heart of Borneo, where traditional cultures survive, and the majestic forests still stand.

Scores of visitors, including students from around Indonesia > and the region, attend the unofficial launch of "I am the Forest" under the environmental youth conference GIN Kalimantan on Sept. 16 to 18, hosted by BCU School and the Borneo Nature Foundation in Rungan Sari near Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan. The public launch is slated for Oct. 2. (JP/Björn Vaughn)

As the Romans used to say, *natura artis magistra* — nature is the teacher of art and science. Nature inspires. It gives us the creativity to express ourselves in scientific or artistic terms, and we end up knowing the world we live in just that little bit better. So it is with the orangutan photo. The actual story is of Otong, a male orangutan toddler under the care of the Protect Our Borneo sanctuary in Central Kalimantan. Otong is blind in one eye but a good climber, and one day will be released back into his forest home. This is how 'I am the Forest' gives hope.



Dr. Erik Meijaard (follow him [@emeijaard](#)) has lived and worked in Indonesia since 1992. He >



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started as an ecologist working in Baluran National Park in East Java on the fascinating topic of what happens to deer dung after it has dropped on the ground. Between 1994 and 1997 he travelled extensively across Kalimantan and Sumatra to develop the first island-wide distribution maps for orangutans. Since 2011, Erik has coordinated the Borneo Futures – Science for Change initiative.

Björn Vaughn (visit him on [facebook.com/Bjorneo](https://www.facebook.com/Bjorneo)) is a film director and photographer at award-winning film production company Borneo Productions International (BPI) in Central Kalimantan. He was shortlisted for the Environmental Photographer of the Year 2016. ●

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## DON'T MISS OUT! REGISTER NOW!

### *BASARA... My Subud, My Life, My future*



Basara now has a website - [www.basarayouthcamp.com](http://www.basarayouthcamp.com) - please visit it to find all information about Basara and REGISTRATION.

Basara really is shaping up like the experience of a lifetime, so make sure you don't miss out on your opportunity to be part of this (most likely) historic event. Book now on the web site. More than 100 young people have already registered.

Don't get left behind or left out. Registration closes at the end of this month October. Don't miss out. Register Now.

It's only a couple of months to Basara. Lots of people have already registered. Please visit our Facebook page to see the participants' profiles and some demographics information. <https://www.facebook.com/basarayouthcamp>

Now is the time to book your tickets to Jakarta and Kalimantan.

The Basara team can help you arrange the local flight. If you have already filled in your form, please contact us for via the web site for more details. See you in Basara this December!

Other features on our web site include a map of Rungan Sari with lots of information about the place and the program.

A list of the Basara team members can be seen at the "Contact" section. Find more about the youths and adults responsible for the organizing of Basara here.

We now accept credit and debit card payments via Paypal for registrations. Payment can be made in installments and are due on October 31, 2016.

### **Fundraising**

We are welcoming donations from Subud groups and members which can be made from the website through a secure Paypal link. We are raising a \$10,000 fund to help make possible many youths to attend Basara. Currently we have achieved 9.8% of our fundraising target and still have a long way to go. We hope that Subud groups and members around the world will be moved to help us by making donations.

We have reached 75% of our US\$10,000 goal and would like to thank everyone who has donated. We hope to raise the rest in this coming month. This fund will give subsidy for youths in Asia particularly in Indonesia to go to Basara. To date only 20% of participants are from Indonesia, but many more will come provided there is enough financial assistance. The donation link is [www.basarayouthcamp.com/donate](http://www.basarayouthcamp.com/donate)

From one person who has donated: "I feel this is a very important Subud event in Subud history and



*Shaping up to be the  
experience of a lifetime...*



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I feel that it is important for particularly Indonesian youth to come to Kalimantan and see what Kalimantan is like in order to help and pursue Bapak's vision for the development of future Subud in the world."

The website is mobile-friendly, so don't hesitate to visit it from your smartphones and tablets.

*From the Basara 2016 Team* ●

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## SEND ME TO BASARA

### *The Editor says...*

I've never asked for money before. I mean I never asked for money for me personally. There have been appeals for Subud Voice generally of course but I've never asked specifically for money for me to do something.

It is not to send me to Rio or anything like that. It is to send me to Basara, the big youth gathering which is happening to Kalimantan in December/January.

In the past I have funded myself to world congresses and so on in order to report on them for Subud Voice, but those days are done. I am an old age pensioner now on a fixed income.

#### *Why should you send me there?*

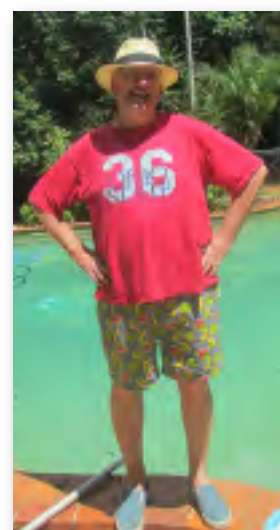
First because this is a really important event. I believe that this event may register in importance in the history of Subud as much as will the 1971 Congress, when Bapak launched the bank and the great thrust into the major projects. It was when he told us that enterprise was not about health food restaurants or bookshops, worthy as these activities may be, it was about BANKS, office blocks, cement factories and hotels. He widened our vision dramatically.

I'm going to Basara because I believe that such a moment is going to happen there. I could be wrong of course, but I don't think so. From what I know about how Basara has developed I am convinced that something really significant is going to happen. Let's face it, let's be honest, the last 20 years or so in Subud haven't been that cheerful. Not like when we were launched upon this great endeavour to make ourselves visible to the world by our great achievements and then we would be able to say to people, "it was through God we did this."

That was Bapak's aim wasn't it? That we would become visible in the world through our activities and then we will be able to inform people by our example. We would be able to unite the spiritual and material. We were going to – in a whole new world. That was our vision, wasn't it? Let's be honest. And then the whole thing came crashing down in the last few years, and we have been a bit glum, but submitted. We have a sense of aging and shrinkage. So many Subud groups seem to not be what they had been. Of course, there were lots of exceptions. There were Subud groups that were forging ahead dynamically. But there was a general pattern, wasn't there, of decline. Was it possible we were going to disappear just after a couple of generations?

My own view was that we might shrink and shrink and shrink until we were just a tiny dot, like a glowing red ruby, and then we would explode again. We would expand explosively as we had done in the late 1950s when Bapak came to England. That was my vision, my hope.

Well, my personal feeling is that we may be at a watershed moment in Subud where we are going to see all this turn around. I believe that Basara is going to be a moment of resurgence. This is going to be the moment when the young people step forward and pick up the reins, or take up the baton, or



*Harris is in training to go to Kalimantan. It's hot there. It's right on the equator. Help him get there.*

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whatever metaphor you like to use.

It is going to cost me about US\$ 3000 to go to Basara (if anyone would like my detailed budget, please send me an email [subudvoice@gmail.com](mailto:subudvoice@gmail.com) and I would be happy to send you my itinerary and budget). I really can't afford it. I am an old age pensioner. Somehow I will get there but it would be a great help if I had some nice sponsors supporting me. You can send your contributions through the payments facility on the left-hand side of our Subud Voice home page. You can pay there using either as if you don't have to have a PayPal account you can just pay with your credit card. Also you can transfer the money to me. Usually whatever money comes in just goes to general expenses, so just mark anything you send me BASARA.

I believe it is important that I go to Basara to be able to chronicle this very important event. I believe that a very complete coverage in words and images should be done, more or less the same way I would cover a World Congress. My track record is excellent. You all know that I have written books and edited Subud Voice and dedicated myself over a long period of time to be a chronicler of Subud. And I believe that I should be there to chronicle this event. Please help make it possible.

The cost of my trip is about US\$3000. Air fares: Melbourne Palangka Raya US\$ 10000

Registration and Accommodation \$500 Sundries meals, taxes \$450 (\*accommodation includes stop over in Jakarta etc.) Money can be transferred directly to our account. ●

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## THE SUPER KILI SOUL BROTHERS

*This exciting adventure story with soul comes from SCAN, the excellent Subud Canada newsletter. It's by Hakuna Matata and Richard Simon...*

It was pitch dark when I heard the tent flap rustle and I knew that it was time to get up. My body screamed in protest, having had only 2 hours of restless sleep. At 16,000 feet, for someone who has lived at sea level their entire life, sleep is fitful at best.

I looked over and Oliver was already awake beside me and had begun to put on the last of his clothes. Although we were 3 degrees south of the Equator, we had been sleeping for the past 3 nights with 4 layers of clothing on inside our bags that were tested down to -9 C.

We gathered outside in the dark at 11:00 pm, 8 intrepid travellers, heavy with anticipation and last minute preparation, readying ourselves for a summit bid, hoping to stand on the top of Mount Kilimanjaro 19,333 feet high, the roof of Africa and the tallest free standing mountain in the world. It had taken five days of climbing to reach our final base camp, perched on a ridge below the summit.

Bundled in all our clothing, and downing our headlamps, gulping a last mug of hot tea, with packs on our backs and accompanied by our 4 guides, we started the final ascent. Step, step, step – *pole, pole* (Swahili for slowly), we ascended the 45 degree slope, filled with loose rock and scree.

The ink black sky was covered in a blaze of stars and Orion showed himself, a familiar and welcome sign, straddled upon the heavens. Dozens of spectacular comets with burning tails, plummeted through the midnight sky, a good omen.

Taking a short rest to hydrate and snack, 3 of our party strapped on oxygen, and then onwards and upwards. As dawn spread slowly, and the summit beckoned, our eyes adjusted and the night sky gave way to faint shadows of light. With an immense feeling of joy, we crested the crater rim and looked back and down upon an endless sea of clouds, a curved horizon and a spectacular sunrise.



*Mount Kilimanjaro, the roof of Africa, and at almost 20,000 feet, the highest free-standing mountain in the world.*

“ *The guides dubbed us 'The Super Kili Soul Brothers'* ” >



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The true summit was another hour to go and another 1000 feet and then, with heaving lungs, at last euphoria! We made it, all 8 of us! After pictures and hugs I found a quiet spot among a pile of volcanic rock and buried a small Subud symbol. I stood for a few minutes in silence in the bright blue sky and sunshine giving prayers of thanks and then turning began the long descent, 9000 feet down to our new camp.

Our journey had started as an idea, spawned 2

“ How true the testing was... ”

years ago at the World Congress in Puebla Mexico, when 6 Subud Brothers from the U.S.A., Canada & New Zealand formed a "fellowship of the trail" and climbed Mexico's 5th highest volcano 14,636 foot La Maliche. All 6 shared a deep and meaningful experience and agreed to another challenge.

Arif from New Zealand was unable to join us but 3 of our sons signed on so that in the end this small "band of brothers" was made up of Arifin Graham, Subud Victoria; Ishman Clarke, Subud San Diego; Simon Andrews, Subud San Diego and his son Phillip; Reynold Orchard, Subud Portland and his son Philip; Richard Simon and his son Oliver from Subud Vancouver. It was truly an international expedition.

It took 18 months of planning, organizing, struggling, juggling and stretching at times of one's patience but finally we had done it. From a sea of green jungle to a barren polar ice cap, the top of a legendary mountain high above a continent had stood beneath our feet.

Months earlier I had tested 2 questions; how "it would be to make this climb" and my receiving was predictably good and then I tested how it would be to make this climb with my Subud Brothers... and it was incredible. How true the testing was.

Climbing this mountain in Africa with my son was immensely special but climbing with my son and my Subud Brothers went beyond anything I was prepared for. Our jiwias expanded and we became a team, a unit, joined inwardly and outwardly on this quest, enveloped by the power of Almighty God.

The guides dubbed us "The Super Kili Soul Brothers" and we felt that way. We were close, harmonious and supportive of each other every step of the way. We shared a unique range of experience, intense feelings and deep wonder. We were able to find a space at the hotel for a group latihan before we started the climb and joined together for beautiful quiet times at each meal with prayers of thanks and blessings.



*Kili soul brothers at the summit.*

When the climb was over and we began to separate, I could feel the aura contract until once again only Oliver and I remained. Deep feelings for my brothers and shared memories of an epic journey are all that now remain... but Africa touched our souls, our bond has been strengthened and we have been transformed.

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## WAR ON WASTE

*As well as her achievements in Subud such as being chair of Susila Dharma, Indonesia for many years, Ariana Susanti is an expert in packaging having held many positions in her career including President of the Asian Packaging Federation. She writes...*

Recently I organised a seminar about War on Waste. Why? Because according to the Ministry of Environment, the total amount of garbage Indonesia in 2019 will reach 68 million tons, and plastic >

waste is expected to reach 9.52 million tons, or 14 per cent of the total.

The target of reducing landfill waste overall by 2019 was 25 per cent, while 75 per cent of waste handling by means of 'composting' and recycling is taken to the Dump area.

A collaboration between government, industry and communities can be achieved to address the problem of solid waste. Speakers included: from Director General of Waste Management and B3, Ministry of Environment, Stuart Hoggard, a speaker from EP Resources, Singapore, and Christine Halim, chairperson of ADUPI / Association of Plastic Recycled Indonesia and Akiyama Mignone, Environment Director of Tetra Pak Indonesia.



*Ariana Susanti organised the War on Waste Conference.*

## MAN WITH A VAN



Dennis Robinson, in Melbourne Australia, has worked for many years in the field of selling and repairing electronic equipment like computers and mobile phones. Rather than working in a dull job for someone else, he has always been attracted to the challenge of enterprise and now he has a van to do it in.

This latest version of his business combines transport, workplace and publicity. You don't have to go to him with that mobile you dropped. He will come to you. (Well, if you live in Melbourne he will.)

Dennis originally comes from England but we in Australia have known him for a long time. At the Anugraha Congress he was the "house master" looking after some of us who stayed in student accommodation during that Congress.

If my memory does not deceive me, I think it was through that same circumstance that he met his Australian wife-to-be, Francia. Romance blossomed, and now 33 years later, they have three grown-up children, and Dennis has a van, and Francis is an osteopath.

Maybe one day he will be able to franchise his idea and there will be vans helpfully whizzing around a city near you as well.

# SICA SECTION

## POEMS FOR PEACE, PEACE DAY AUSTIN, AND ELEVEN DAYS OF GLOBAL UNITY.

*Latifah Taormina writes...*

Sometimes a little seed comes to us to plant and nourish. It's not a seed we created, but something that is given by God. I think, in Subud, when we are given those kinds of seeds, they will sprout almost immediately. But if WE do not nourish the seed, the seed will find fertile ground on its own, where others then nourish it, and the seed will flourish — because the seed came from God, and it's God's will that it grows.

I cannot say for sure that is how SICA's Poems of Peace grew into a global peace movement, a peace movement nourished more by many other non-Subud organizations than by Subud members, but it seems that way. Perhaps we are still too small to contain something so big. Perhaps it is enough that we were entrusted to plant the seed in the first place, and that we should feel grateful the seed is growing and re-seeding itself in many other places.

SICA began its Poems for Peace initiative in 2012. I was then SICA chair and looking for ways to grow SICA and give SICA a good name in the eyes of others. The question was how to give it stature? How to give it good public recognition for its work? How to make SICA something that talented and gifted professionals in Subud would be proud to say, "I'm part of that."

There are many Subud members who are truly expressing their God-given talents in the world and who are also highly respected professionals in their fields. They are quite happy to share their talents within Subud. But many, for a variety of reasons, do not want to have their professional names and reputations publicly linked to Subud.

Indeed SICA is for activities that emerge from the development of our souls, but those activities we are to share with others not just with each other.

As Ibu has reminded us, "Bapak hoped that through SICA, Subud members who had a talent in a particular field would create something truly new or different, something that would touch other people, meaning people who are not in Subud, people outside Subud.

". . . So by creating something for other people, you may be able to demonstrate something that without their being aware of it, may exert a positive influence on people who are not in Subud. So we hope that Subud will spread through SICA through activities that other people can see." (— Ibu Rahayu, Singapore, March 10, 2002, Final Translation by Raymond Lee)

So I was looking at how to create a public platform for those activities, in order to build the public reputation of SICA — and how to do it with little or no money. I felt there must be a way SICA could partner with another organization or use our talents to help another organization in a way that would help get SICA off the ground.

[What could we do to help others and benefit ourselves?](#)

Instead of saying, "help me, help me," what could we do to help others that would in turn benefit >



*Latifah Taormina.*



our ability to help ourselves? How to earn our worth?

That's when I happened across the website of Peace One Day and Jeremy Gilley's story of getting the UN to set a fixed calendar date for Peace Day.

Gilley was an actor-turned filmmaker who had gone with Jude Law from the UK to Afghanistan in the 90s to deliver some badly needed medicines to some children. Once in Afghanistan it took them months to organize a day long truce along 4 miles of highway to deliver the medicines. That's what gave him this "crazy idea": what if there could be one day when all over the world people didn't fight each other? A global truce for one day?"

He knew the UN had a Peace Day, but it happened when the General Assembly met for the first time each year. It did not have a fixed calendar date. Gilley set himself to the task of making that happen. After years of work, and getting people like the Dalai Lama and others to support his efforts, the UN agreed, and in 2001, the United Nations International Day of Peace was fixed to happen all over the world on 21 September every year.

Coincidentally, the day that Kofi Annan was to come and ring the Peace Bell and announce the UN's new Peace Day resolution to the press was 9/11. Gilley was there with the press when the two planes flew into the twin towers. But Gilley did not fold his tent. Peace Day had been approved by the UN and Gilley continued to work to involve many countries, organizations, and people in working for Peace and celebrating Peace Day.

The day I came across his Peace One Day website...

Gilley was inviting NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations) to join his effort. SICA is an NGO. I clicked on the link to join the effort. That led me to a form to fill out about SICA. Then I came to the line on the form that asked, "What will you do for Peace Day?" Out of the blue, and quite spontaneously, I typed, "Poems for Peace." The next day, an email came from Gilley himself. He liked what we were going to do and thanked SICA for joining this coalition of NGOs working for peace.

We did our first Poems for Peace event in Austin that year, and a number of Subud groups around the world also did a Poems for Peace event. I can't speak for the events outside Austin, but our Austin event clearly touched people.

In 2013 we began connecting with local colleges in Austin about having them do some kind of Poems for Peace event as well. In 2014 we began to expand that group and to speak about a city-wide Peace Day celebration that was not necessarily confined to just doing Poems for Peace.

2014 was also the Congress year, and led to our competition for an artist to create an Angel of Peace that SICA could give to Puebla. SICA also became a member of the Charter for Compassion that year.



Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin Texas, proclaims September 21 2016 as Peace Day.

“ A little seed comes to us to plant and nourish.. ”



In 2015, I met Lesa Walker, another Charter for Compassion member and leader of the Charter's "Compassion Games" in Austin.

The "Peace coalition" we began in 2014 now really came together: Lesa, myself, Margie Kidd of Global Austin (an organization that works at the behest of the State Department to take care of International visitors who come to Austin — among other things), Susan Thomasson, Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives and Faculty Innovation at Austin Community College and a former student of mine when I taught here in Jakarta, Robert Faires, a theatre director and performer in Austin as well as the Arts Editor of the Austin Chronicle, and Amy Layton and her Motley Crew Media team who worked with me when I was Executive Director of Austin Circle of Theaters and then of Austin Creative Alliance till I retired in 2011. We were the team that made Peace Day Austin a reality last year, an event that involved over a million people.

*Inspired so many events and activities...*

Our Peace Day Austin coalition inspired so many events and activities, there was no way they could all happen in one day. So we made Peace Day Austin an eleven-day celebration, from 9/11, a national day of remembrance and service to 9/21, the United Nations International Day of Peace.

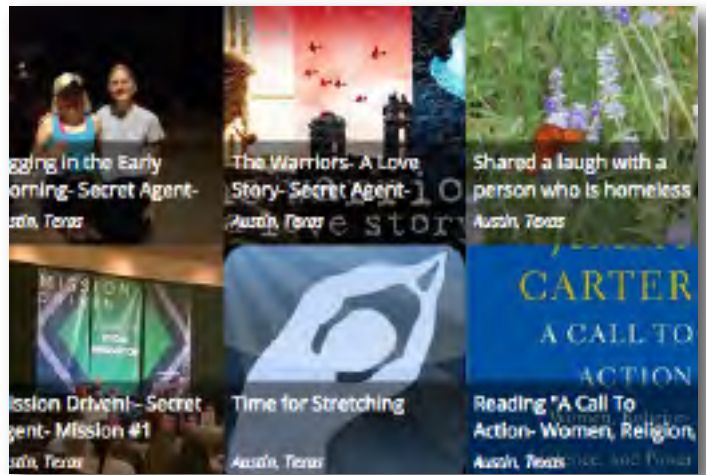
SICA's little peace seed also found a home in Los Angeles in 2014, and another Subud member, Lael Belove, began nourishing Poems for Peace in Los Angeles. Similarly Konrad Muñoz began nourishing the seed in Colombia.

This year the Austin coalition continued, and while I was no longer in Austin, SICA still participated. We also raised funds to help support the work of our marketing team and others to get the word out and to gather sponsors like Amy's Ice Cream and Baked By Amy's (that made the cookies we posted pix of on Face Book), and other organizations.

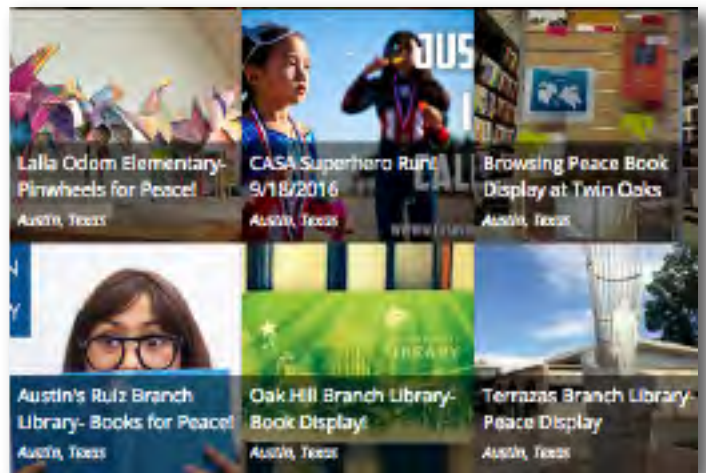
Our team also staged the press reception with the Mayor and got the two big theaters in town to turn their theaters blue at night (with lights) in honor of Peace Day. What my friend Lesa began as an Austin Compassion Games challenge last year became the Compassion Games' "Eleven Days of Global Unity" event. Our little seed is inside those Eleven Days.

All this began from a little seed that came out of the blue from the work I was doing for SICA. It has attracted the serious commitment and involvement of many others, a few of them Subud members, but mostly others.

The Eleven Days of Global Unity is now a truly global initiative of the Charter For Compassion. Lesa Walker, my friend in Austin, is one person, but she and I both work with a kind of deep dedication. I hope that what SICA has done to light this flame will not get lost in the shuffle and that more will be able to step up and really work not just for their own gain, but for SICA and Subud.



*Screen shots show the various groups that participated in the Eleven Days as part of Peace Day Austin.*



“ *A global truce for one day?* ”

we posted pix of on Face Book), and other organizations.





Share the love — and work for peace. Or as Bapak often reminded us:

"...God Almighty loves mankind. And since you have received this love from Almighty God, you must do everything you can. You must do the utmost in your life to do something that will be of benefit for mankind.

The purpose of all of this is to bring welfare and peace to the society of man. Not to a nation, but to mankind as a whole.

"...Therefore, brothers and sisters, while we do our work and pursue the things that we have set out to do, let us never cease to pray that mankind will be protected and that peace and prosperity can return to mankind." *Bapak Mhd. Subuh Sumohadiwijoyo London, August 9, 1983*

Six days after Bapak made those remarks, SICA was born.

*With Love, Latifah* ●

## SUBUD STORY BROCHURE

*International Helper, Isti Jenkins, has produced a brochure about the "Our Subud Story" project...*

This project is a response to requests from younger people to know and understand more about the history of Subud and the people who made it. So it will not be a collection of portraits as in a museum, but more a living heritage, a wellspring from which the young people can draw knowledge about the meaning and mission of Subud.

This foundation can help them understand what to do now! (Will there be anything about what not to do?) See the following article about Salamah Stewart as an example of the material that is being gathering. The aim is to collect 150 Subud stories by World Congress.



*The flamelike Subud Story logo.*



*At recent Polish gathering, twins Osanna and Maya, gathered with well-wishers to celebrate their birthday(s) around the fire, which people have done since time immemorial, swapping stories and communicating the history of the tribe.*

would like to volunteer, and contact her if you want a copy of the brochure. Please support and share this brochure wherever possible, thank you. Email: [istijenkins@gmail.com](mailto:istijenkins@gmail.com) ●

Isti has created a logo for the project which shows a flame with seats for people to sit on around it. This is inspired by an idea of Peter Jenkins who compared the project to the experience that has been part of human life since time immemorial. That is, sitting around the campfire telling stories, conveying the oral history of the tribe and the lore and wisdom of the elders and ancestors.

See the accompanying illustration of the logo and a photograph that was taken at the recent Polish Gathering where those terrible twins Osanna and Maya celebrated their birthday(s) around the fire.

The brochure contains a detailed explanation of the content and aims of the project and a permission form which can be used if you interview someone. You need to have a record that they have agreed to be interviewed and that the interview may be used in this project.

Of course, Isti is very interested to hear from young people who might like to go around interviewing people on video, sound or even notes on paper. A good time to do this is gatherings when there are a lot of people around and willing to participate in such an activity. Contact Isti if you



## SUBUD STORY: SALAMAH STEWART

"The latihan flows on and will take you wherever you need to go."

*This interview with Salamah Stewart, a Subud member in Australia, has been collected as part of the OUR SUBUD STORY project. Salamah is particularly well-known for her outstanding work as a potter.*

*This interview was done by Luthfiah Heywood, who is originally from South Africa but now lives in Australia. Luthfiah write: 'I asked Salamah, "How did you come into Subud?" and she replied...'*

**Salamah:** Well it actually started with my mother Wanda. We lived in Cairns in North Queensland and a very good friend of my mother's, Norbert Cumer \* was a violinist in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the whole orchestra including Norbert was coming up to Brisbane and then on to Cairns.

He called in to see my mother and said, "I have just been given this most fantastic book written by John Bennett. I read it and I was opened immediately. Here's the book." And off he went.

Now my mother read the book and said, "I don't know what it is, but I have got to find out about this." So she went down to Sydney. Once she had found out where the group was she was opened. That would have been about 1959/60.

She came back up to Cairns, saying vaguely, "Oh I've been down to Sydney and just had an interesting thing!"

About two months later, I said to my mother, "Whatever this is I would like to have the same experience."

My mother gave me Bennett's book. We wrote to Sydney and the helpers there told us that there was a group in Brisbane so I could be opened by them. The three Brisbane helpers could not decide amongst themselves who was going to come up and open this person in Cairns (chuckles) which was me.

### Opened by an English Lady Passing Through

They couldn't reach an agreement but as it happened there was an English lady Subud member who was passing through. She had been to Cilandak and was heading through Cairns on her way back to England. The Brisbane lady helpers said that although this lady was not a helper, they had tested and it was alright for her to open this person up in Cairns.

She travelled up, I can't remember her name now, she came to visit and the three of us had a chat. My mother, myself and the Subud member from England. The only reading I had done on Subud was Bennett's book.

She said, "Right – I will come tomorrow evening and I will open you."

"OK says me,"

We sat there and she said, "Turn off the lights. Both of you stand up, begin." And I did.

It was the strangest thing! This was all in the



*Wanda, Salamah's mother.*



*L to R: Salamah with daughter Hadijah and grand-daughters, Brianna & Arianne.*



*You go through all sorts of things...*



dark. It was like I just slowly disappeared; I think is the only way I could put it. I thought it was about 3 minutes long but it was over half an hour that I was there.

She said "Finish." We had a cup of tea, she said goodbye and away she went.

**Luthfiah:** Wow, and here we are, how many years later now?

**Salamah:** I was opened in 1964. In 1971 at the World Congress in Cilindak I met the lady who came to Cairns to open me and she said, "I often wondered whatever happened to you."

We had lovely chat over a cup of coffee or whatever it was; we just talked about our experiences since 1964 when I was opened and how I had been doing latihan ever since.

To me that whole experience of being opened and doing the latihan is more important than what happened after that. You go through all sorts of different things.

**Be Ordinary**

Eventually I did come down to the group in Brisbane where I met those three ladies who were helpers at that time. Life has just changed so much you know and that is the most important thing. Now I am just ordinary.

As Bapak said in England, "Don't live in your head, just be ordinary."

Well I think I am finally arriving in a stage when I am just ordinary as well as having been given something extraordinary through the latihan; it just flows on and will take you wherever you need to go.

That all started from Norbert who was opened in Sydney in the 50s. He never went back to Subud. It's just amazing how he went all the way up to Cairns, gave Bennett's book to my mother, Wanda, and she did latihan from then on until the day she died.

**Luthfiah:** It is remarkable; I am astounded by how people find Subud because they come across it in so many different ways.

*Note 1: Salamah wasn't sure of the spelling of Norbert Cumer's surname. I was going to leave his surname out but she wanted me to put it in. I am not sure of the protocols regarding privacy when it comes to these matters.*

*Note 2: There is much more that could be written about Salamah and her career in art. Also there is a remarkable story about generational continuity. Wanda was opened, and then her daughter Salam was opened. Later Salamah's daughter Hadijah was opened, and then Hadijah's daughter, Arianna, has been opened, and now Arianna has had a son, Lachlan. Five generations in Subud!*

*There will be a further article by Luthfiah about other aspects of Salamah's Subud and artistic lives in the next issue of Subud Voice.*



*Don't live in your head!  
Be ordinary.*



*Interior by Salamah.*



*Cover of Indonesian cook book Enak.*



*Poster for Salama's exhibition.*



## YOUR BODY MANDALA

*Mary Bond is seeking your help...*

Mary Bond, who was our wonderful "Half Boy" in Erica Sapir's puppet show, "Legend of the Half Boy," that SICA presented in Puebla, has also been a dancer and rolfer for many years. She has devoted her life to healing others.

She writes; "I've finally finished writing my third book, "Your Body Mandala: A Guide to Posture, Perception and Presence", which is the product of my nearly 50 years as a bodyworker and movement coach.

The book will help people trade habits of feeling stressed out and crumpled up for habits that let them feel bigger, more expansive, more expressive and more powerful. Reader-friendly presentations of supporting science grounds what I have to say. Exercises and meditations in the book will be available in linked audio and video files, so it will be like I'm right there coaching the reader.

I'm rounding the last turn now, working with graphic artists and getting ready to shoot the video that will be linked to the book. I'm very proud of the way it's turning out, and I believe that people are going to love it. Rather than using a traditional publisher as I did for my first two books, I've decided to produce this one myself and I would like your help to complete the book.

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1733788192/mary-bonds-new-book-your-body-mandala>

*Mary Bond.*



*Latifah Taormina* ●

## ACORNS OF LIFE

*Big things grow from small beginnings...from Susila Dharma International...*

A wonderful new fundraising initiative is happening in the south of England to raise money for the Kwilu Ngongo Mother-Child Hospital which is being built by SD Congo and its partners in the Democratic Republic of the Congo – the fourth community managed health centre to be built and managed by SDC in the DRC (DRC).

Melina Clark, who lives in Sussex, near Lewes, is giving to the health centre project 100% of all profits generated from the sales of her hand-crafted acorn necklaces, which make up a collection called Acorns of Life.

In late September, staff member Solen Lees interviewed Melina to find out more about her inspiration, life and work. Here's what she discovered, beginning with why Melina became a jeweller.

*It all started with...*

Melina's father was a jeweller, and she followed in his footsteps, doing a jeweller's course in London, followed by an apprenticeship at Garrards, the Crown jewellers. A starry beginning indeed! Garrards is responsible for cleaning the jewels at the Tower of London and one of Melina's tasks was to help re-make one of the Queen's tiaras.

It was a predominantly male environment and although



*The Acorn Pendants.*



Melina was used to workshops and thus to the ‘banter’ of all-male environments, the management did not really know how to handle her. As apprentices usually do, she “did all the dirty work”. Quite demanding, her day began at 7.30am, when she would commute up to London, but it was a great experience.

After working at the House of Garrard and then at another jewellers, Roger Doyle’s, she left at age 24 and struck out on her own before going back to school to study design, an area she found increasingly attractive. “Then I joined Subud and things started taking off.”

And not just because the commissions started rolling in – she also acquired a lovely well-located studio and became pregnant with her first child, Lily!

For Melina, making things is essential; in fact it is impossible for her NOT to make things – something is wrong if she is not creating. Subud helped her realise this – before she knew something was wrong, now she knows what it is. What’s more, creating has made her successful. She is getting good commissions for her work and now has a new studio in her garden, as well as four children aged 3 to 14!



*Melina Clark at work.*

#### *A result of synchronicity...*

Her decision to help fundraise for the Kwilu Ngongo mother and baby hospital was a result of synchronicity. Being in a strong enough position to take action, she knew she wanted to do something for Subud, to give something back. She talked to Vincent Mount (SD Britain trustee) who pointed her towards the SDIA website where the first article she saw was about the Kwilu Ngongo clinic.

“There was an article about laying the first brick, and I felt like joining the building work in some way. I’m sure every SD project is amazing, but this struck a chord,” she says.

Having experienced life as a single parent and of not being supported as much as she would like in her role as a mother, she knows what it is like to struggle. Her youngest daughter has had health issues and she found herself dealing with them almost on her own.

Women are vulnerable, she says, and “you’re the one left holding the baby.” Her interest in homeopathy and healing through natural means confirmed her interest in this health centre. “It’s good that they are trying to find simple preventive strategies in the DRC,” Melina affirms.

#### *The acorn product...*

Melina’s new product was made especially for the fundraising campaign and the idea came about on a local walk when a friend’s son found an acorn and suggested they cast one off. It turned out to be the first of many as the idea took root. This piece of jewellery is rich in symbolism: as a seed that grows into something big and strong, it represents the child. It’s also about life, sunshine and vitality: in old English and Celtic traditions the holly is a winter tree, but the oak tree symbolises summer.

On the weekend of 23-25 September, Melina launched her collection at the Forest Row festival, “an amazing annual event” held on the village green with lots of fine crafts, theatre and music, all free because of the money raised for the event all year.

The Acorns of Life pendants were promoted during the festival and sold at a gallery in the village, One the Square. The owner of the gallery, Magda, has agreed to charge minimal commission on sales, and Melina is giving 100% of her profits to SDIA for the Kwilu Ngongo hospital.

“ *She wants to give something back to Subud...* ”

“ *She knows what it’s like to struggle..* ”

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The initiative looks like it's gearing up to be a great success – there has even been interest from Australia! In November, Melina will be going with her acorn road show to Lewes where there is a big Subud group. As part of a prize draw, jeweller's shops in the town will have tickets, on sale for £10 each. Why not join in?

You can find out more about Acorns of Life here <http://www.melinaclark.com/acorns-of-life> and visit the Acorns of Life Facebook page.

### [Update on the Kwilu Ngongo project](#)

The Mother-Child Hospital Center of Kwilu Ngongo is being built with the support of SD Britain, SD Germany, SD USA, the German government and a Canadian family foundation. The construction work is progressing well, and we are hoping that it will be completed by the end of the year or by early January.

We also have a new partner coming on board, called Energie Assistance in Belgium. They have offered to cover some the cost of a basic solar power system that will ensure that centre always has enough power to meet its basic operating needs. They are providing technical support and some funding.



*Work in progress on the Kwilu Ngongo Mother-Child hospital that Melina is fundraising for.*

“ They are finding simple preventive strategies in the DRC... ”

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## SURVIVING A HURRICANE

*How would you like to have this bearing down on you? Lynnelle Stewart in Florida was understandably nervous about Hurricane Matthew and sent out a prayer call to friends around the world. This story shows how we can all support each other even when we are thinly scattered all around the world and separated from each other by great distance. Lynnelle writes...*

Thank you all who sent up prayers. I believe they made all the difference for us in Florida.

A friend in Seattle told me she prayed that I would come safely through the hurricane better for having gone through it.

And this actually has happened. It is due to the loving and immediate communications that flowed into me from Subud friends, brothers and sisters from Indonesia, Canada, U.K., Australia, Poland, Germany and elsewhere in the U.S.A., causing me to feel very loved and connected..

I feel much freer and trusting and forgiven from Above, also due to the kind inner reassurances and messages of love. I have passed through the storm in a merciful pocket of calm and relative peace. I did not even lose power and water, when half a million around me did and some even died. The property damage in my locality was much less than in other places hit by the hurricane.

### [Power of Prayer](#)

I must also tell the story that a friend in OZ told me that she was repeatedly praying specifically >



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for Hurricane Matthew to be moved to the East. THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED AT THE 11th HOUR! The trusted weather news caster said "we dodged a bullet" because of the storm's shift 20 miles to the East.

Until that, the hurricane was predicted to pass directly through this area, causing catastrophic and life-threatening damage (800 died in Haiti). It had been shifting gradually toward us for days and hours. Then unexpected at 11 pm at night, with the winds predicted to intensity for us at midnight, Hurricane Matthew reversed its course and moved 20 miles East, shifting over the sea... Of course, how can I know for sure?

But truthfully, I FEEL that the Almighty mercifully directed that the hurricane shift towards the ocean in response to human prayer. Several Subud people told me they were praying and God knows how many others also were praying. I clearly felt at least one angel with me in a serious way the night before. Love to all and so much gratitude!

Though my work of the last three-and-a-half years is ending at the close of October, I am look forward to attending Bapak's 70-year celebration in Indonesia early in 2017

*Your sister, Lynnelle*

*From the editor: Curiously while Hurricane Matthew was rampaging around the world, my daily Bible reading plan has been looking at the Gospel of Matthew with Jesus talking about the Beatitudes. Good advice in the hurricane season or at any time that our lives will be happy and blessed when marked by:*

Gracious Humility	Gracious Compassion
Gracious Empathy	Gracious Purity
Gracious Submission	Gracious Mediation
Gracious Justice	Gracious Perseverance

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## A CHILDHOOD PROPHECY FULFILLED

*Howard Raimbach, UK, tells the story of his life in Subud...*

### The Prophecy

I was born in North London in 1923 – the year of the Tokyo earthquake and firestorm, and 3 years prior to full UK suffrage. The streets were still gas-lit, and WW1 disabled veterans sold bootlaces and matches to shoppers to eke out a living.

Middle class families, like mine, had full-time pensionable occupations, lived in houses with a tradesmens' entrance and had the rare luxury of a car and telephone. These were the years of the post-Wall Street Crash.

As a child, I had a very serious infection, which nearly killed me (this was years before antibiotics). Shortly after my recovery I experienced this strange inner voice which kept me transfixed as it gave a message prophesying future life-changing events, which would occur to me. I was rooted to the spot, and this event is still vivid to me after a good 80 years or so.

My years at Grammar School were spent uneasily under the gathering clouds of approaching war. Royal Air Force flight trainers droned overhead incessantly and the army manoeuvred frequently on the land adjoining our playing fields.

Early in 1939 I sat and failed my final school leaving exams, so my parents insisted that I re-sat them at the next opportunity. By then, WW2 had erupted and the school was evacuated from London. Our official destination was High Wycombe, but my acquired intuition convinced me that Oxford was our true goal. And so it proved to be. This was pivotal to my future, because there I met my schoolgirl love and also

“ *A strange inner voice prophesying life-changing events...* ”



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successfully re-sat my exams.

“Oxford! There I met my schoolgirl  
love and passed my exams...”

## Wartime Experiences

School was now over, I returned to my family home in London. With The Blitz in full swing, I contemplated my options for a viable future career, and came up with a blank. So, I got myself a temporary job with the Admiralty in Central London. Deep underground in bombproof tunnels, we were decoding Fleet communications on an 8-hour shift rota – all top secret!

The night that St Paul's was nearly destroyed by fire was unforgettable. When I emerged from night shift at 5 am I could barely see across the street for fire, smoke and ruins. Debris and fire hoses underfoot made movement hazardous. Transport was at a standstill, so that morning I walked across North London and eventually arrived home to the extreme relief of my anxious parents.

I was getting increasingly frustrated at the sight of school friends in military uniform, so at the tender age of 17 I volunteered for the Fleet Air Arm as an air gunner. I passed the preliminary medical. But the air crew medical had an upper weight limit of 12 stones, which I exceeded by five and a half stone!

On rejection, I was transferred to the sea-going branch (a move that probably saved my life, given that an air gunner's life expectancy was alarmingly short). I went on to do my basic training in some ancient barracks in Chatham, which were originally designed to house The Duke of Wellington's cavalry.

Thus equipped, we were bundled off to sea in His Majesty's ships on various duties – usually convoy escort vessels, which would roll on wet grass. Rubbing shoulders with rough sailors, sleeping in hammocks, scrubbing decks and hosing down toilets (heads to us) was a whole new life-style, made more intense by brushes with the enemy – usually underwater, sometimes above or even both simultaneously.

So, for 10 shillings a week (50p in new money) I sailed from the Americas to the Arctic, thence via the Mediterranean to all points East, finally arriving at Sydney Harbour in 1945, having got D-Day and my 21st birthday under my belt.

Years at sea in floating tin cans with temperatures ranging from 40 below to very hot indeed didn't improve our health and I succumbed to a severe lung infection, which set alarm bells ringing in the Naval Hospital just north of Sydney, to where I was discharged from my ship as a TB suspect (the Navy's nightmare).

A few months of total rest and a minor lung operation stabilised me as fit to travel home (unlike the intake of released Japanese POWs, who were not in a fit state to go anywhere).

## I Hear of Subud

Eventually, I was medically discharged with a disability pension and sent on my way home. The war was over for me – and everyone else (the atom bombs had been dropped and peace had broken out). So, in 1945 I returned home after an absence of nearly six years to an almost bankrupt nation, virtually exhausted and with thousands homeless. My own family had been incredibly lucky to have been uninjured and to have a house in one piece.

After a brief period of re-adjustment to civilian life, I began searching for a job – if not a career. Once again, fate took a hand here as my Matriculation plus my ex-serviceman's disability pension qualified me for automatic entrée to the elite Bank of England (a government regulation required employers to recruit my category as a priority).

It was at the Bank that I first heard about Subud from some most unlikely characters such as John (Simon) Sturton, a rowdy practical joker, and Carlton (Leonard) Sleath, who was the very opposite. >

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My schoolgirl heart throb was by now a fully trained nurse, and I discovered to my great joy that her hospital was close by. So we re-started our romance after a six-year break!

My parents took a great shine to this girl and when we decided to marry, they kindly offered us one of their spare bedrooms and a box room which we converted into a Spartan kitchen. We were self-contained, both working and sharing a frugal, post-war, rationed existence, like most of the nation.

We soon discovered our shared spiritual hunger that eventually brought us to Subud.

### Joining Subud

However, we lived and worked for two years or more from our temporary London home, then decided to get a mortgage and buy a house of our own in Hadleigh, Essex. This is where we lived for 22 years and raised our four children. Happy, busy years!

In my spare time, I was pursuing this evasive, spiritual enigma via the usual esoteric literature, which, via Gurdjieff, finally brought me to J.G. Bennett, 'Concerning Subud' and Coombe Springs, which was half hour's drive from my parents' London home.

To discover more, and following in the wake of the media furore over Eva Bartok and Bapak the year previous, we would travel from Essex with our (the three) children to stay with their dotting grandparents, whilst we drove down to Coombe Springs on Saturdays when JGB held mini-seminars explaining what Subud was all about.

We were both opened there in 1958 and, in the absence of a local group, continued our family travels, via our parents, onto Saturday simultaneous latihan, then, returning to pick up the children, staggered back to Essex late in the evening. Tiring, but stimulating!

### Coombe Days

The early Coombe days were euphoric and exciting times for us novices – a newly arrived miracle to purify the human race and save it from self-destruction. The latihan were energetic and noisy – and unforgettable if you strayed into the Djami Chunatra\* for an extra noisy 'O' Group latihan, aka The Carnival of Animals. (The Djami Chunatra was a purpose self-built, 9-sided domed structure, specially created by the Gurdjieff groups to house their ritualistic rhythmic dances etc.)

There were some idyllic summer weekend celebrations for Gurdjieff's and JGB's birthdays. I clearly remember Kitty Trevelyan struggling with a jam jar of meths endeavouring to launch a decorated hot air balloon into the sky. The children loved the donkey rides around the lovely grounds, led by Tony Hodgson, whose CV included a doctorate from MIT!



*Bapak, Ibu and John Bennett at Coombe Springs.*



*The mansion at Coombe Springs. JGB held mini-seminars explaining what Subud was all about. Howard was opened at Coombe in 1958.*

Meanwhile on our home patch in SE Essex, an influx of members and applicants had appeared, needing support. As an expedient, I was made a helper together with my wife (now Michelle), and we started a group in Southend-on-Sea.

We got off to a shaky start with a mix of extra-marital affairs, an imported swami alternative to Bapak's explanations, and a self-appointed guru to the impressionable youngsters with us. Time and endless patience from a stable core group eventually brought about a more comfortable atmosphere to the group, which plodded on unremarkably until eventual dispersal.

The year 1972 heralded the fulfilment of that childhood prophecy. I was then 49 and in the same year Jacqueline (our eldest) was 21, whilst Michael (our youngest) was seven. The house was number 49. The Bank had installed a computer the size of a small bungalow onto a specially reinforced floor, and redundancy was in the air. The Bank made me such a generous early-retirement pension offer, I felt unable to refuse, so after 26 years service, I made the great escape.

*Howard will conclude his story in the next issue of Subud Voice...*



*The Djami Chunutara at Coombe Springs. A nine-sided hall built on the principles of Gurdjieff. Bapak gave talks there.*

## READING THE BIBLE

Harris Smart writes...

Some years ago, when he was living in Melbourne with his family, I got to know Sebastian Paemen quite well. We hit it off and became quite good friends. I have stayed in touch with him since he returned to Europe and recently we have been having an interesting correspondence about religion.

Sebastian has become a Muslim and is very involved in the Islamic community in Oxford, UK. (Oxford has a Muslim mayor.) I, on the other hand, have become a Christian. In our different ways we have both turned to religion. As we all know, Bapak frequently recommended that it was good for Subud members to practise a religion. Fortunately, Sebastian and I have both found religious brands we can identify with.

Recently, Sebastian sent me some quotes from the Qur'an. They were penetrating, positive, encouraging and peaceful statements, counteracting the impression people have that the Qur'an is all about going to war or hellfire and damnation. For instance, Sebastian wrote...

"Did you know that in the Qur'an the phrase, 'But God is merciful and forgiving' - including variations (like merciful and compassionate, etc) - appears nearly a hundred times? On top of that 113 out of the 114 suras begin with 'In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate'."

Perhaps partly because I expressed my appreciation of receiving these quotations, Sebastian went on to write about the Qur'an in more detail, and I decided to pair this with something about the Bible.

So here is my piece about the Bible followed by Sebastian's about the Qur'an...

I think there is ultimately only one really important question about the Bible. Can this book help me in my life? Otherwise it is just a collection of stories and history and prayers from long >





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ago. What is its relevance to me? To today?

I belong to a very big Pentecostal church. It is a very good church. I could spend a very

long time talking to you about all the wonderful things at my church. One of the things it does is encourage people to read the Bible.

So this year for the first time in my life I have been embarked upon a Daily Bible Reading Plan. I have not been perfect in my observance of it, I have sometimes fallen off the wagon, but I have climbed back on and have observed my daily Bible reading pretty well, if not perfectly well. (Perfection belongs to God alone. The Perfect is the enemy of the Good.)

I'm fortunate at my church that the leadership really understands the Bible in a vivid contemporary way. They really know the Bible as a living thing. It is really alive for them. And I find the same thing is starting to happen for me. Also I am assisted by Subud because Bapak often said that by practicing the latihan we would become better able to understand our own religions. I feel this is happening to me.

So I read the Bible every day and I apply some SOAP. Christians love acronyms and SOAP is an acronym for:

**Scripture:** Read the scripture.

**Observe:** What do you observe about this passage? What strikes you? What do you find interesting? What do you find confronting or informative?

**Apply:** Apply the passage to yourself or your own situation. Is it helpful to you in any way in your present relationships and circumstances?

**Prayer:** Say a prayer based on the reading and the experience you have had. Perhaps certain things have become clear to you about yourself and you can pray to God for help with them.

A great thing about prayer is that you can turn a worry into a prayer. Let's say you think to yourself, "Oh God, I feel like such a worthless person" you can immediately turn this round like a judo flip into a prayer by saying, "Oh God, please help me to become a more worthwhile person." A prayer is always a better thing than a worry.

Anyway, now whenever I read the Bible, I use plenty of SOAP, working up a good rich lather.

### Onward

Sorry, there was a slight digression there on the subject of prayer. Onward with the Bible...

The Bible is of course one of the major foundations of our entire Western civilization. And the tragedy is that it's being forgotten. My generation is perhaps the last when there will be a widespread knowledge of the Bible.

The Bible is so important to us. It underlies our law, our morality, our literature. So many of these Bible stories summarize lessons of life. David and Goliath. The prodigal son. The wise virgins. Samson and Delilah. All these stories in their different ways encapsulate wisdom about how to live. How to behave, and how not to behave, if you wish to be happy and prosper.

What will become of our civilization if it cuts loose completely from its ties with this book? Who can say? Perhaps we are seeing the results of it now all around us as society seems to be becoming increasingly chaotic.

### A Specific Example

So, I'm trying to remember one very specific experience I have had with the Bible which will indicate to you how I have been able to see into the Bible and how its light has illuminated some situations I'm in, or character traits I have.

I will choose the book in the Old Testament called 1 Samuel. Samuel is a prophet in the Old Testament and his story is very involved with the story of King David, whom as you may remem- >



*There is really only one important question about this book...*



ber, was the one who killed the giant Goliath in battle and then went on to become king of Israel. So Samuel is the prophet, the one who speaks the voice of God, during this tumultuous time.

“What will happen to our civilisation if we cut loose from this book?”

Right at the start of 1 Samuel is the story of how Samuel's mother, Hannah, very much wants to have a child. She is married to a man who also has another wife and the other wife is extremely fertile and has lots of children and is always lording it over poor Hannah who has none.

But one time Hannah goes up to the Temple and she prays, “Oh Lord if you will only give me a son, I will dedicate him to the temple.”

Sure enough, God gives her a son. (At one point Hannah goes into a song of praise and thanksgiving in which she also can't restrain herself from having a couple of digs at that other wife who was always so snooty.) So Hannah takes the baby up to the temple and dedicates him to the temple and she only comes to visit him once a year to give him a new set of clothes.

Now the meaning to me of this story, what I admired in this story, what helped me in this story, is the way Hannah stays faithful to her promise. It is easy enough to backslide from our promises to God once He has granted them. It would be easy enough for Hannah to say, “Oh well, yes, I did promise to dedicate him to the temple, but you know how it is, he really needs me, I don't think I should send him up to the temple after all.”

We can always find excuses and justifications for why we don't have to do what we said we would do.

So this passage was a valuable lesson to me because I recognize this tendency in myself to pray to God for something or other and then be extremely ungrateful when my prayer is granted. I am so adept at finding excuses for why I don't have to keep my side of the bargain.

So this is one of the ways the Bible is very helpful to me. It enables me to identify some of my own traits and characteristics which could possibly do with some work.

(Sebastian wrote to me, “I can't find the quotes right now but in the Qur'an it says several times things like 'When people are in need they pray to Me all the time, but when I've answered their prayers they stop praying, don't thank me and are ungrateful.' We must stress the common ground of our religions, not focus on the differences.”)

### Supernatural

The Bible really is like a supernatural instrument. Its power seems to go beyond just the fact that it is a physical object of a certain number of pages with black marks on them bound together between two pieces of cardboard. The Bible seems to have a power beyond itself. So that sometimes when I am just holding the Bible, I can feel it vibrate with life, and I can feel after this contact with the Bible, just by holding the book, without even reading anything in it, I can feel the power and the strength and the support of the Bible.

## THE QUR'AN

*Sebastian Paemen writes...*

I have felt a deep love for the Qur'an for many years, reading the Holy Book of Islam can move me to tears and sometimes gets me into a state of latihan. The Qur'an is probably one of the least understood books in the West. This is not helped by the fact that the Qur'an is virtually untranslatable.

The original Arabic is the most beautiful and so-



phisticated Arabic ever written; in 1400 years it has never been surpassed and its influence on the development of the Arabic language



*Majestic, elegant and of great beauty...*



is greater than that of Shakespeare on the English language. The verses are written in a semi-rhyme form with a particular rhythm which makes recitation easier.

Nearly all Quranic scholars describe the language of the Qur'an as 'majestic, elegant and of great beauty'. Sadly, translated Qur'ans tend to lose all of this and can be dull and monotonous. Also the quality of translations varies enormously as translation is always interpretation. (For over 40 different English translations verse by verse, see:

<http://islamawakened.com/quran/22/34/default.htm>)

Another thing which makes the Qur'an more difficult to read is that the verses are not arranged chronologically but more or less by size, the longer suras first. Some suras (chapters) contain verses received at different times, years apart.

The Qur'an is a liturgical book, mainly meant for recitation (hence quite a bit of repetition) so that the listener will be touched by the beauty and content of God's word. The verses were received from Almighty God - similar to Susila Budhi Dharma and Bapak's talks.

It is normal to see Muslims weep while reading the Qur'an or listening to a recitation because they are deeply moved by it. Recitations by imams are sometimes interrupted by short breaks because they are overcome by tears. There are several examples of this on YouTube.

Many of the Quranic verses, which were received over a period of 23 years, were responses to events which were happening at that time but it doesn't always state what these events were. This is found in the Al-Hadith, the large collection of sayings of the Prophet and his contemporaries and their accounts of that time.

That's where 'tafsir' comes in, Quranic exegesis, which connects the verses in the Qur'an with the Al-Hadith. Suddenly many of the verses take on a totally different meaning. One which is usually lost on islamophobics and extremists alike.

Bapak said that the reason why the Qur'an is sometimes harsh is because the 7th century Arab culture in which it was received was very harsh and cruel. Child-offers to the gods, baby-girls who were buried alive because the Arabs wanted sons, slavery, forced prostitution, torture, mutilation, no legal system but the law of the strongest - no protection for women, the weak and the poor, etc, were all part of this world.

The Qur'an brought enormous improvements to this barbaric society by offering a high moral standard and protection for the weak and vulnerable, apart from profound spiritual guidance as well.

## AN HEROIC JOURNEY

*Reynold Ruslan Feldman (Subud-Boulder, Colorado) writes about Victor Margolin's illness and recovery...*

Victor Margolin is my oldest friend. We met in January 1962, six months after I was opened. We were among the youngest members of Subud-New York, along with Laurence Schectman, the late Wallace Klein, and the late Fr. Raymond Oppenheim. Victor and Wallace were in their junior year at Columbia University;

Raymond was studying Chinese as an exchange student Yale. He would later become an Anglican



*Shoshanah and Victor Margolin on a Danube River Cruise in fall 2014.*



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priest. I don't remember what Laurence was doing, but he soon moved to Berkeley, where he entered an MA program in sociology and got involved in the Berkeley politics of the early 60s. I was a first-year graduate student in English, also at Yale.



*One of the most highly regarded world scholars of design...*



Raymond and I would periodically take the train down from New Haven, Connecticut, to New York City for the Sunday-afternoon group latihan. That's when we met up and hung out with the other young Subud members, including Victor.

He and I stayed close over the years. I even helped him get a job in higher education in Chicago. Up until that time, he had been doing a number of consulting gigs and had also published two books on the graphic arts. Victor had the original idea for SICA, our international cultural association, which was implemented at the Anugraha World Congress in England.

Both of us had spent significant time in Subud Germany. Later we both became professors who wrote and published books. I was also the best man at his wedding.

Victor went on to have a brilliant career as a professor of Design History at the University of Illinois in Chicago. He even served a term or two as department chair. A founding editor and contributor to an international scholarly journal on design, he went on to be one of the best-known and most highly regarded world scholars of the history of design, consisting primarily of graphics and products.

In 2015, two of his three-volume master work, *A World History of Design*, were published, and he completed part of volume three.

### Then It Happened

In August of 2015, Victor had a gall bladder operation. Some of us did latihan with him at a distance via an open telephone line. He none the less felt well enough to travel in October to South Korea, where he was to receive an award for the first two volumes of his *World History of Design* and where he was to give a keynote address at a design conference.

Shortly after arriving, however, he fainted, fell, and suffered an injury when several vertebrae impinged on his spinal cord. The result was total paralysis from the neck down. He was able to think and talk, just not to move any part of his body except for his head. He was fed by tube.

His daughter, Myra, came to South Korea to be with him and accept the award on his behalf. His wife, Shoshanah, had just received a new hip and couldn't travel. After what seemed like forever but was only two weeks, the president of Asiana Airlines provided transportation for him to return to Chicago along with a doctor, a nurse, and Myra to care for him. The airline paid for everything.

### Since then...

Victor was first in a hospital in Chicago, where an operation was performed to fuse several vertebrae. After going to another hospital to help him get weaned off a respirator, he was transferred to a famous rehab center, where he spent four months regaining some movement and sensation in his limbs and entire body.

Since the middle of June, he has been at home. Even though a nursing assistant comes every day for some hours, the real burden of care has fallen to Shoshanah, a retired professor of Social Work.

Victor is learning to use a voice-activated computer program, exploring ways to finish volume 3 of his *World History of Design*, writing articles, having home latihan with local Subud members, receiving visits from colleagues, and going to physical therapy, movies, and favorite >

restaurants in his wheel chair.

Most impressive to me—and the true fruits of his 50+ years of latihan—is his attitude.

“ *Most impressive to me is his attitude...* ”

Despite everything he’s gone through in the last eleven months, he has managed to stay optimistic, and his faith in God seems to have only gotten deeper.

Victor Margolin is now not only my best and oldest friend. He is my hero. And his loyal, hardworking wife, Shoshanah, is right up there with him. So it is appropriate that this article is accompanied by a picture of them both on a Danube River trip the two of them along with Cedar and me took a few years ago. Victor, Shoshanah, and Myra have had quite a journey since then.

## IN MEMORY OF PAK MAT

*Mansur Geiger writes...*

Matthew Chatham Mayberry, or Pak Mat, as fondly known by his friends and Dayak people of the Upper Kahayan River in Central Kalimantan, passed away peacefully on the 30th September 2016, he was 87.

He was born in North Carolina and married Melanie his high school sweetheart in 1947. Both Pak Mat and Melanie were opened in Subud in 1959 in Florida by John Bennett. Along the way they produced two fine boys Theodore (Ted) and Richard.

Pak Mat as an exploration geologist travelled a fair amount around the world.

In 1982 Pak Mat came to Indonesia at Bapak’s request to join and head up the mineral exploration program. It was then that he and I started a 4 year period of true adventure, challenge, fun and blessings, making many expeditions into the entirely unexplored region of Central Kalimantan that Bapak had indicated to us.

“ *Neither of us was ever the same again...* ”

ditions into the entirely unexplored region of Central Kalimantan that Bapak had indicated to us.

It was a true adventure in that there were no maps or communications and transport was by canoe or on foot. During this time Pak Mat and I became very close, exploring the unknown jungle, often sleeping in the same tent (a challenge at times), working with the uncontaminated local Dayak people, and often sharing the same feeling that Bapak, nature itself and those unseen forces were assisting us. Neither of us were ever the same after that magical time.

In his later years whilst fighting illness, Pak Mat completed a remarkable 480 page detailed archival record, including maps, photos, journals, reports and a host of historical Subud literature on the Kalimantan early days. He entitled it “The Great Kalimantan Adventure “

Pak Mat, a true pioneer, always ready for the challenge, was my original Jungle Buddy who taught me much during those years.

He was a deeply religious, sensitive and big hearted man of great humor and often child-like fun. As Harris wrote, ‘He was a wonderful, generous, positive-thinking man... I always enjoyed and was uplifted and enriched by my contacts with him.’

God Bless you, Pak Mat, on your journey, thank you for your support and friendship dear Jungle Buddy.



*1982: A fine looking man.*



*With Pak Mat on Kali river in 1983. Poling our way home with Pak Sumbin our original Dayak guide.*



*Pak Mat and I in front of the school in the village of Mahuroi in 1982.*

## NEW SUBUD CENTRE IN ORGIVA

Saturday September the 24th. marked a milestone in the development of the Subud community in Orgiva, S. Spain with the official opening of the impressive new latihan halls which was attended by members of the World Subud Council .

It had originally been hoped to hold the WSC meeting in Orgiva but doubts over whether the new facilities would be ready in time and a possible shortage of accommodation led to the decision to use a hotel on the coast at Salobrena - about 40 mins. away.

A total of 120 members from the WSC, the local group, and other Spanish and international members attended the celebration which included a presentation on the project, music, dancing and singing performances and the handing over of a plaque from MSF chair Marston Gregory to the group chairman [and driving force behind the new halls] Andrew Bromley. In addition special thanks were given to Swiss architect [and local member] Marc Vouga for his inspiration, beautiful design and generous financial support for the project.

This is an impressive achievement by any standard taking just 36 weeks from the commencement of building work. What is also hugely impressive is that around 220,000 euros has been donated by group members [with a further 45,000 euros from MSF and around 50,000 euros from international members and other members of Subud Spain]. Money is still needed [around 60,000 euros] to finance the fitted kitchen, flooring, and solar power heating and cooling system.

The new building is adjacent to the existing latihan hall, houses and gardens built by the founder members over 20 years ago and consists of two spacious [90 metre square] latihan halls with generous social area and kitchen, two toilets, office space and outside, wide terraces and plenty of space for parking and grounds for growing fruit and vegetables.

The Subud community and group here [in the beautiful foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains just south of Granada] has, from its inception, been truly international in nature with members from many different countries working together.

Likewise, the feeling and hope is very much that these new facilities, along with existing accommodation, will lead towards the development of a Subud centre which will be used by members internationally for meeting, gatherings and retreats [Ramadan etc.] and to deepen our experience of the latihan. In addition, because of the exceptional winter climate here and the beauty of the landscape, this area is becoming increasingly popular with members who come to escape the cold and dark N.European winters!

If you would like to help us complete the project please click on this link:<https://subudalpujarra.com/donate>

*Photos by Viktor Boehm and Mark Vouga*



*The new Subud Centre in Orgiva set against the beautiful backdrop of the Sierra Nevada mountains.*



*Inside the latihan hall.*

“ *The whole feeling is very international...* ”



## APOLOGY

In the October SV, I wrote a tribute to Andreas Zys, and mentioned with regret that he and his wife Susannah had later left Subud.

I have now been told that this was incorrect, that they did not leave Subud. So I can only say how glad I am, and would like to express my apologies to all, and especially to Susannah, for this inaccuracy. *Ilaina Lennard* ●

## Ibu Rahayu's Message to Zones 3 and 4 Meeting

*Pamulang, 24th July 2016*

To my Subud brothers and sisters in Zones 3 and 4, whom I respect and love.

As a senior person in Subud, I thank Almighty God that, with His permission and with Him showing the way, through the joint efforts of the committee members and helpers, the mini-congress for Zones 3 and 4, is underway. It shows that the Subud association is not dead or inactive.

Subud is guided by those who have been appointed as committee members and helpers to put into practice Subud's mission – the gift that God gave to Bapak to be channeled to any human being who needs it. This is

why helpers and committee members carry such a heavy task and responsibility. They are the ones who accompany and look after members as those members worship Almighty God through the latihan.

The aim of that worship is that we will become complete human beings who are able to defeat our nafsu – that give us our passions, ego and desires – and each become the master of our house: our true self. This is why we all need to do latihan regularly – even committee members and helpers. This process is not just a matter of making movements but, gradually, you are being introduced to the content of those movements.

The latihan has no limit or end. After all, the human soul has eternal life. Your latihan will only stop if you ask God to stop it, by your own wish. Or if helpers assist you, for your own sake.

This is why people must never be forced or pushed into joining Subud. To prevent that, before joining Subud, people should go through a candidate period. During that period they get explanations from the helpers on duty. The aim is that, during the candidate period, they can make up their own mind as to whether to join Subud or not.

Subud is almost a hundred years old. Yet problems still arise that show there are things that are not understood or are misunderstood. And those easily produce disharmonious working relations between helpers and committees, between helpers and members, between men helpers and women helpers, and so on. Indeed, all that can – and does – happen. After all, Subud covers every aspect of human life.

Yet you have been doing latihan for a long time now. If you are helpers, you have done it for at least five years. At this stage of your development, you are able to feel what has changed in you for the better, and what is still not right. You can feel what makes you happy and what does not. And so on.

You could be doing something wrong, but feel that doing it is right. And because you consider that fault to be right, you allow it to grow inside you.

In the end the very thing that you think is right and that supports your life, is actually giving you the wrong kind of support and brings the risk of increasing your suffering. This is one example. And because other people or members see you acting wrongly, there is no mutual trust and respect, with the result that relations are bad between helpers and members.

This is why I hope that those of you who have been doing latihan for a long time, will be willing to look at yourselves and acknowledge any mistakes you might be making. And be willing to work to reduce or, even better, stop such behaviour. Certainly, it will be hard to do. It is why, in one of Bapak's talks, he said that to achieve something good, we must have a strong sense of discipline.

This is all, brothers and sisters. From a distance, I will join you in prayer. Let it be that your congress will go well, be peaceful and achieve meaningful results that will be the best ones for the Subud groups in Zones 3 and 4, and for Subud groups in general.

*Sincerely, Ibu Siti Rahayu Wiryohudoyo* ●



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