



CONGRESS NEWS BITS AND PIECES

From Osanna Vaughn...

The Facebook page for the Subud World Congress 2018 in Freiburg is already busy with plenty of activities and questions being asked. Here is a summary of various aspects that may be of interest to readers here:

The Congress registration fee (already announced here on September 21, with no fee for youngsters up to 18 years of age) includes a public transport card for the period of the congress. Freiburg



Freiburg public transport network

has a very comprehensive network of tram lines and buses. Tram No. 4 (pink on the plan) goes to within walking distance of the Messe Trade Fair Centre, and the city has promised to arrange a shuttle for those who might have difficulty walking.

The registration fee (which is the lowest we've had for quite a few congresses) does not include accommodation or food, but, in addition to the afore-mentioned transport ticket, covers all the expenses of renting the venue (the major expense), equipping the spaces according to our needs (too many to list here), and the running costs to organise this very large event.

Aware that for many members the biggest costs are flights, accommodation and food, the WCOT team is work-



Waiting to welcome you to Congress.

ing very hard to negotiate plenty of great deals – though there's not much they can do about flight costs. The meal plan takes a rather novel approach that allows for plenty of flexibility and is incredibly reasonable in the prices. There seems to be a concern that all the cheapest accommodation will be gone by the end of this year. If my own experience, and that of others who travelled to Freiburg for the meetings last August, is of any value, I can say that this is not the case. I booked accommodation for myself and eight young people in July and got a very good deal, while another attendee booked a single room at two days notice, in a lovely district and for 28 euros a night. I know that even less expensive accommodation is being investigated and negotiated. The process for applying for assistance if needed will be clear once the official web-site and registration process are on line.

Experience has shown that the number of people who register before the actual year of a congress is very small, so rushing to open the registration in 2017 is deemed unnecessary. It will, however, be possible to register an intention of participation in the coming months. ●

WORLD CONGRESS WEBSITE ONLINE *From Osanna Vaughn...*

The website for the 15th Subud World Congress, which will be held in Freiburg, Germany, from July 28th to August 8th, 2018, is now on-line at: <https://subudworldcongress.org>

A special thanks goes to Andrea Sillem for all the work she has put into this project. Obviously, a bunch of other people from the WSA Exec and WCOT team have also been involved, and the texts are now in the hands of the translators, so that the site will soon be available in different languages.

The site does not yet include the possibility for registration, as that is planned for some time in November; however, it covers just about everything else you would want to know about the coming World Congress.

In addition to this official site, Eugenia Stark is managing the lively Subud World Congress 2018 Freiburg Facebook page, where many questions are being asked and answered. She is very busy with the task, however; so the request to members is to check out the official site first, to see if they can find answers to their questions there.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Freiburg! ●

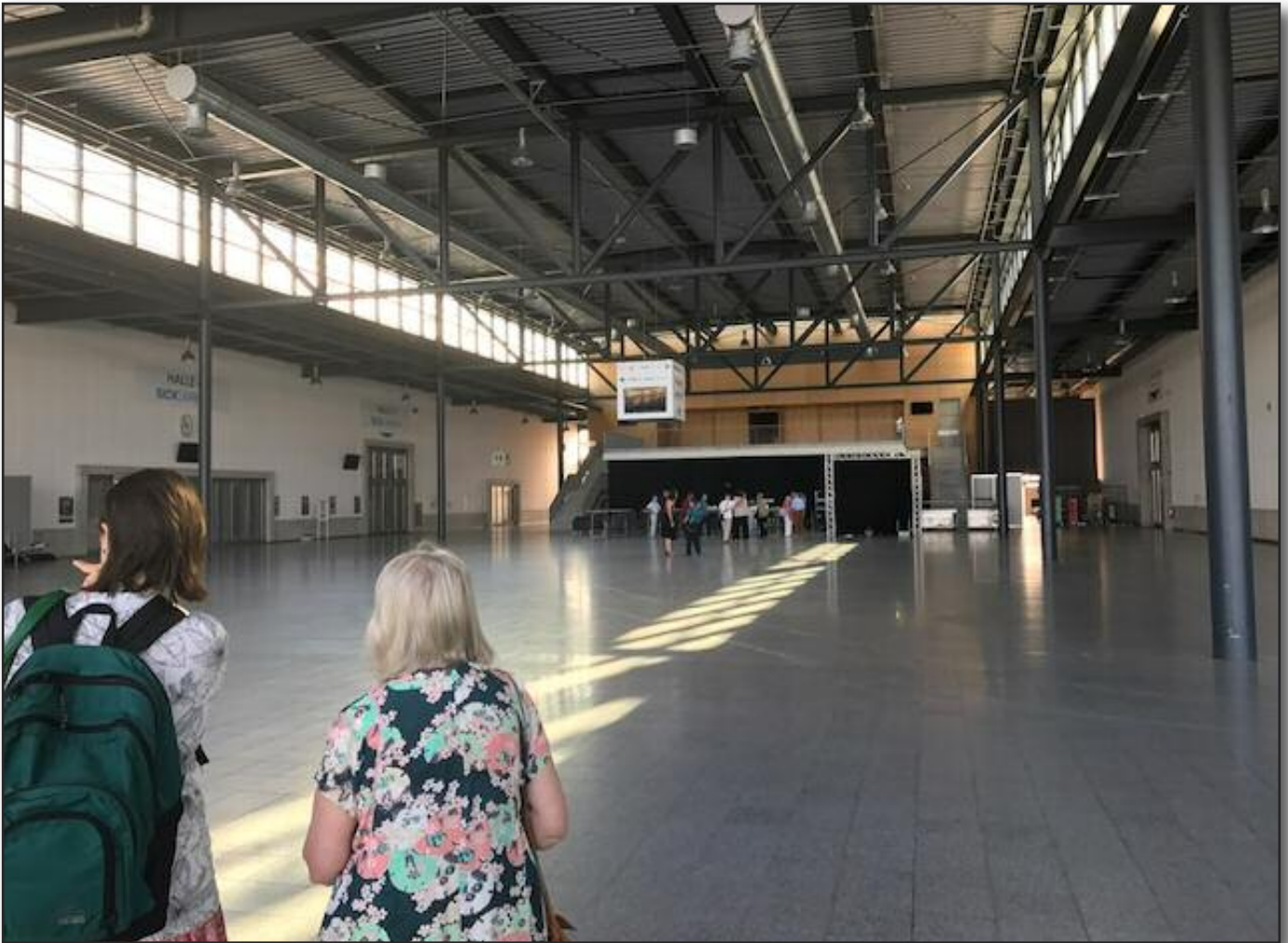
Freiburg World Congress The Way to Unity through: Discovery - Vision - Action

The theme of the Freiburg World Congress is 'Unity'. This symbolizes the integration and working together of all aspects of Subud to support the development of projects, activities and enterprises that are an expression of the latihan in the world.

The largest hall at Freiburg (6,000 sq m) is called "Subud Life". When you enter this space, you will discover all of these aspects of Subud spread out before you: Wings, Youth, Helpers, MSF, Zones, Countries, Groups and WSA including Archives, SPI, Translation Unit, Human Force and Yes Quest. The huge potential of all these parts of Subud working together will be right in front of you.

During the 12 days of Congress, a dynamic program of activity and interaction in this space will help everyone to have a clearer understanding of how Subud can support them, and how they in >





Large latihan spaces will be available at Congress. (Photo by Hadrian Fraval)

turn can support the growth of Subud, and how together we can create amazing new projects and enterprises.

To facilitate this process, the twelve days of Congress will be divided into three phases: Discovery, Vision and Action.

DISCOVERY

As always, the Congress will begin with an Opening Ceremony. Here the Discovery theme will be expressed in a magical way through myths, legends and fairy-tales. This theme will then extend into the kejiwaan days with a special focus on new possibilities.

Walking around Hall 2, “Subud Life” will surely be a time of discovery for each of us, and there will be an opportunity to participate in the first of three major interactive “Shared Explorations”, which of course is titled ‘Discovery’.

VISION

Teams being formed to develop projects... Success Stories... Presentation of amazing projects by groups and individuals... advice from experts in finance, law and marketing... support for your ideas from Wings... meeting a mentor...this is the Vision phase in the ‘Project Kitchen’... and of course, the second ‘shared exploration’ is titled, ‘Vision’, which is expected to produce many projects (a similar process at Basara, resulted in 14 projects).

ACTION

The third phase is all about the transition from ideas into real-life activity. Plans are honed ready >

for presentation to the panel of Wing Chairs, who will make awards from the considerable grant money that will be available, and the last two days of Congress are all about GETTING STARTED NOW, with a final shared exploration, "Action". Wings will be organising follow-up and on-going support for when project promoters go home. At the Closing Ceremony there should be a lot to celebrate... it could be like a coming-out party for Subud!!

As well as all the activity in 'Subud Life', there will be several huge tents, with wooden floors, in front of the building for children's programs, craft, youth etc. We can have bonfires in this outside area and continue music, dancing etc. into the night.

Latihan spaces for both men and women are also enormous and there are some 12 rooms for meetings of delegates, MSF, Wing AGMs etc. However, the plan is to integrate the work of the delegates, giving them an opportunity to participate fully in the general program.

Oliver (COT) and Ismanah (WSA) ●

A SUBUD ODYSSEY 2017

Beginning before Christmas last year, Peter and Isti Jenkins travelled the world visiting many Subud groups and events. Peter is of course the founder of the YES Quest which has been devoted to helping young people find their direction in life. Isti is currently one of the International Helpers.

Their journey began with the Basara Youth Gathering in Kalimantan in December and January, followed soon after by the 70th Celebration of the founding of Subud in Jogjakarta. Then they came back to Rungan Sari for a couple of months, before moving on to Corfu for six weeks.

They attended the Zone Meeting held in Greece where Peter, together with Rusydah Zeisel ran a five-day 'Creative Quest' workshop.

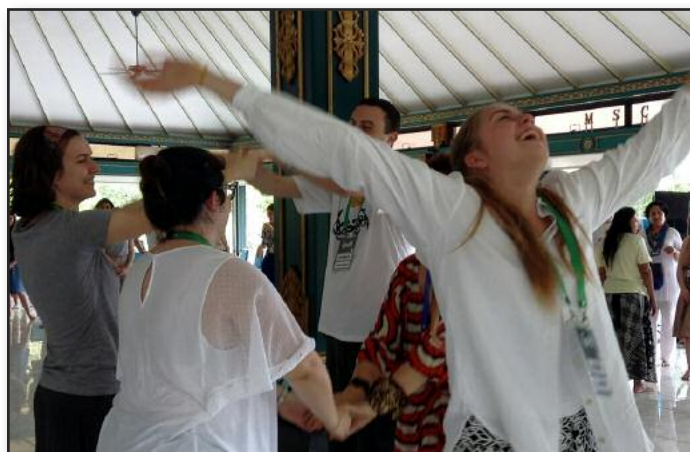
From there they travelled to Cologne for two weeks and stayed with WSA Exec Chair, Ismanah and her husband Eliah to work on plans for World Congress, together with Oliver Haitzman (by Skype).

Next was the UK Congress where Peter and Oliver gave a presentation on World Congress.

The last leg of their journey was the WSA and COT meetings in Freiburg, which went on for some two weeks.

I asked them if this journey had given them an insight into how Subud is at this point in time.

PETER. Without question, the most important thing that I witnessed is the emergence of this



Subud youth bustin' out at Basara.



Isti and Peter Jenkins at Rungan Sari.

“

A new generation of young Subud members wanting to get involved...

”

new generation of young Subud members who are really getting involved and taking on responsibility. This was evident at the Basara gathering and has been reinforced by what we saw elsewhere.

ISTI: Certainly one of the delights was joining in the experience and fun of being present at the Basara workshops.

A social highlight for the youth and me was joining the river cruise adventure organized by Gaye Thavisin. But from the aspect of the kejiwaan we were delighted that many young members were keen to attend the Helper Stations early evenings before dinner. It was a joyful opportunity to know them better.

How was the celebration in Jogjakarta?

ISTI: The presence of Ibu Rahayu was of course the highlight of this event. Her commitment to come in spite of her health and the fact that she was moved to hold a lengthy testing session for both men and women was special.

It was amazing to witness the growth of Subud in Indonesia, to engage with so many overseas guests and to share latihan with members from all over the world. It had the flavour of a World Congress for sure.

And back in Rungan Sari?

PETER: I was working with a small group including Gaye Thavisin, Utami Geiger, her sister Sati and Pierce Vaughn. We formed a company, "Venture Beyond" with the aim of promoting Rungan Sari as a venue for conferences, youth and other events. I have just heard from Gaye that there are some very promising events scheduled in the coming year.

ISTI: We spent two very special months at Rungan Sari during April and May. The latihan were fantastic. What is most impressive is the wonderful community spirit and endless amount of love that is generated there... I miss that aspect.

From Rungan Sari to Corfu

Our intention was to stay in Rungan Sari for Ramadan, but because of visa problems, we responded to an invitation from Daphne and Rashid Butte and spent six weeks in Corfu. This was an extraordinary and unexpected gift. Every Sunday Daphne's mother Ilona, a pioneer of Subud in Greece, hosted a group meal and latihan. June was the perfect month to enjoy the ancient treasures of the island, before the heat and crowds of July.



With the Subud members in Corfu.



Peter and Isti in holiday mode.



Youth meeting in Freiburg.

PETER: The highlight of this time was that with Daphne and Rashid we hired a 40 foot yacht with a wonderful skipper called Kostas, and made a five day tour of the Greek islands. We were able to cross off a major item from our 'bucket list'.

One other thing that I should mention is that the position of International Youth Co-ordinator has been vacant since the passing of George Demers. I am 75 years old and did not have any intention of putting my hat in the ring for this position, but I was urged to do so by some of the Subud youth.

Also making himself available for this position was Ethan Harris from the USA. There were two rounds of testing with the international helpers which indicated that both Ethan and I were equally suited to the position. Then some meetings were held between WSC and the international youth and the end result was that I look after Youth Liaison with the World Congress, and Ethan looks after everything else, a very satisfactory distribution of labor.

So I will just end by saying that yes, definitely, the most positive thing I saw in the Subud world in this journey was the emergence of this new, enthusiastic, capable, generous, open-minded friendly, wanting to get involved, generation of young people.

ISTI: I second that.

PS: Peter and Isti have returned to Australia and bought a little house at Noosa on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland, which they can move into at the beginning of February. So, what to do until then? Well, more travel of course. They are currently in Tasmania and planning to fly to Orgiva in Spain from mid-November until the Australian Congress in January. Then, Peter can move into the new house, while Isti, as IH, flies to Indonesia for the Zone 1 & 2 meeting. ●



: Eliah Schulze-Vorberg , Isti and PeterJenkins and Ismanah Schulze-Vorberg at Eliah and Ismanah's home.

ZONE 6 MEETING IN KINSHASA, DR-CONGO

Viktor Boehm writes...

The Zone 6 Meeting was held at the Bondeko Center in Kinshasa, DR Congo, from 17th to 22nd September 2017. Over fifty delegates attended from the DRC, Congo Brazzaville, Angola and Benin, with visitors from Germany, France, the UK, Italy and Canada. Rida, the Zone 6 Representative and his team had organized everything very well.

Two of the Area 2 International Helpers were present: Sjarifah Roberts (UK) and Valentin Pizzi (Italy). They ensured that Latihan was held every morning at 9, generally followed by a series of test questions and sharing. There was often an additional Latihan in the evenings after dinner: the Kejiwaan aspect was very significant for the meeting, and important themes were also discussed with the helpers. A new Zone 6 Representative for the period of 2018-2022 was also tested in: >



Zone 6 participants in front of the Kingantoko Center.

Mendes Mente from Angola. He was already able to attend the World Congress in Innsbruck in 2005.

One day we visited the Kingantoko Center about 40km away from Kinshasa. The 55ha property has been in possession of Susila Dharma Congo for 20 years, and a beautiful building was constructed on the land in 1999. This was where the women, followed by the men, did an intense latihan.

Unfortunately, the financial means are not available to further expand this center, though four years ago an

SD healthcare center was being built on the boarder of the property sponsored by the Buchan Foundation. In addition, SD has procured a brick making machine to set up a small enterprise there. The photo shows Kingantoko Center with participants of the Zone 6 meeting.

After the Zone 6 Meeting, a bus load of Subud members went for two days to visit the new Mother and Child Clinic in Kwilu Ngongo, five hours away. It is another project realized by SD Congo, and supported by SD Germany, SDIA and the BMZ (Germany Ministry for Economic Cooperation). The clinic was officially opened on 25th September with a ceremony attended by 400 people, including the Health Minister of Central Congo. For more information and photos click here

<http://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SVCongo-Zone6-Meeting2017.pdf>



New tested Zone 6 rep. Mendes Mente and current Zone 6 rep. Rida Liobo Loote, right.



Zone 6 meeting in Kinshasa – Bondeko Center

Mexico Earthquake Appeal

I have never been so scared in my life, it is a feeling I can't describe. Eight months pregnant and with my 18-month old son in my arms in the middle of the street, I was totally terrorized, but Allah has showed us his love and protection and we are perfectly fine, just recovering and still afraid. Rasjidah Flores, Puebla, Mexico.

On 19th September, central Mexico was hit by a major earthquake, 7.1 on the Richter scale. The epicentre of this quake was in the state of Puebla, and there was another one at almost the same time in the state of Morelos. These earthquakes came less than two weeks after another major earthquake (8.1) hit the states of Chiapas, Oaxaca and Guerrero.

Although the death toll has been relatively low for earthquakes of this magnitude, many people are now homeless and some have lost everything they owned.

Most of the casualties were in Mexico City because of the presence of tower blocks which collapsed. However, many people are also living in the streets in small towns and cities in the other states. The national and international relief effort – which is concentrated on the capital – has not



reached them. These people need our help.

In many small towns in Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Puebla and Morelos, government aid has not arrived. People have not been provided with temporary accommodation in their communities and are living in makeshift shelters. Although Mexico City has suffered great damage and has a higher death toll, our challenge is also to help those affected by the earthquakes in other parts of the country.



In partnership with SD Mexico, we are offering our help by mobilising people on the ground in the states of Puebla and Mexico to give emergency relief to those affected. All donations will go to SDIA member, SD Mexico, who will be responsible for the logistics of the relief effort. SDIA is mandated to collect emergency funds on behalf of the World Subud Association (WSA).

If you can support us with a donation of any size, please do so on our website. Many thanks! ●

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, JANUARY 2018

January in Australia is the time for our annual Subud congress. It is the middle of summer here with warm days and cooler nights. Apart from the business side, there are latihans, testing sessions, workshops, entertainment and catching up with friends old and new.



Next Year 2018 our congress will be held from 6th – 13th January, at Currimundi on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. It is an ideal place, a short walk to the surf beach, a lake and cafés. An ideal venue for families or individuals to enjoy a holiday.

If you are from overseas, you will also enjoy the best of what there is to offer on the Sunshine Coast, including the world famous Australia Zoo, and enjoy the beautiful beaches from Noosa in the north to Caloundra in the south. Brisbane is just over an hour's drive away.

We would love to have you join us from where ever you live. To book please go to the congress website at <http://oznationalcongress.weebly.com/registrations.html> and download a booking form, or for more information send an email to oznationalcongress@gmail.com

From Leonora for the Congress Team ●

VISIT TO WILCZYSKA

Maxwell Fraval, Chair of SIHA, writes...

As I was in Europe this October, teaching courses in Osteopathy, I took the opportunity to visit Halim and Maya Korzybska's amazing project at Wilczynska, Halim's family home that was lost to them after the war and then fell into decay in the recent past when it lay abandoned.

Wilczynska lies south east of Warsaw and we



drove there from Maya and Halim's home in Warsaw taking about an hour and a half to do so.

We arrived at the entrance you can see above, the main house is in the distance at the top of the drive. There is a gentle slope to the property with two large ponds, one to the right of the above photo and one behind the main building. The latter is the one seen below.

There is a peaceful quality there that progressively seeped into me as Halim began to show me around the property. Throughout the property there is woodland that includes many ancient trees ... a reminder of life here in the 17th century.

The beautiful pond that you can see above was completely overgrown by mature trees during the 70 years when the land was confiscated by the state and the buildings were used as a local school. The natural spring was no longer dammed so the land here was very muddy. Many trees and the undergrowth of many years had to be removed. Then the dam was reconstructed and stocked with fish making it into an area of natural beauty for recreational walks.

When he regained possession, Halim said the main house was rather like the wreck of a property that was Loudwater Farm in the UK when Subud first moved there as a group just after the World Congress in Germany in 1975.

We stopped as we drove up the drive and I saw the main house through the trees. It has simple but elegant lines with a portico at the main entrance. Using his skill as an architect, Halim has designed and is directing the renovation and extension process.

Halim had to have the whole of the foundation underpinned and the roof and ceilings had to be completely restored. The design provides for two large meeting/workshop spaces, treatment rooms and a kitchen and dining room on the ground floor with 20 bedrooms on the first floor. There is a basement which will have a sauna, jakuzzi and steam room as well as other treatment rooms that will be used by health professionals of various disciplines. Below is another view of the house, this time from the left side of the main building.

Turning round, I saw the second building which provides accommodation only. Each of these units are spacious and could provide accommodation for couples and maybe a small family. You can see the front entrance below. There are six larger units and one single bedroom in this newly



Here is Halim, showing me the path to the pond we visited

added building.

I came away inspired by Halim's project which has great potential to help people towards health as well as being a possible venue for Subud activities in the future. ●

AREA 2 LATIHAN

Dear brothers and sisters of Area 2 (Zones 3,4,5 & 6) and anyone else who would like to join us, we invite you to the Area 2 latihan. It is scheduled for the 3rd Sunday of each month at 12 noon CET. All Area 2 countries are within 1 hour, either in front or behind this time. For example, in Britain and some African countries it is at 11 a.m. and in Greece, Turkey and Cyprus it is at 1 p.m.

The proposal for this latihan was tabled and passed at the Z3+Z4 bi-zonal meeting in Poland in 2016. It stayed on the shelf until the Z4 meeting this year, when it came up again at the helpers' meeting. Our dedicated sister Magda Pfabigan has been sending reminders for a Z3/Z4 latihan and offered to transform this into the Area 2 latihan. We know how easy it is to forget dates, especially with something new, so her willingness to send out reminders is most welcome. We now have to see how best to reach as many members as possible.

This proposal came from a strong feeling to draw in our African brothers and sisters closer to Europe. As things stand, Z3 and Z4 are very active and organised internally, while it is only the IHs and a few others who know the situations in Z5 and Z6. I have been fortunate over the years in having good contact with one or two African brothers and experienced the vibrancy and unique qualities they bring. They have big problems with visas and the high expense of travel, but let's do our best to bring as many as possible to world congress. In the meantime and going forward an international latihan at a regular fixed time may help us to feel closer together. ●

KSG NEWS Visit Report February 2017

I hope these photos, from my visit in Jan/Feb and these quotes "from the Rungan Sari Residents Association review of 2016" will give some idea of Rungan Sari life. (Andrew)

From RSRA: "We are happy to let you know that this year we didn't have any smoke. The wet season has continued throughout the year and is still here, and we pray that we won't experience the same terrible haze again that happened in 2015."

This is also the contact point for any plot holders from way back who are not sure if they are on the PCB list.

Sari Phase Rungan 2: The Rungan Sari Phase 2 initiative is gathering steam and we may soon see a first release of 22 plots for building in Cluster 1 of the new development around the MSCentre. Interested parties and 'virtual plot' holders can contact the PCB Phase 2 team at: rsphase2@gmail.com

Events: "We had 2 main events happen here at Rungan Sari, the first of which was The Global Issues Network 'I Am The Forest' exhibition. This event was held by Borneo Nature Foundation and assisted by BCU school between the 16th –18th September. There were approximately 200 participants aged between 12 and 17 from international and local schools. The main goal was to discuss and learn about the global issues our world is facing today, with a focus on the environment. At the same time, Bjorn's innovative "I am the Forest" photo exhibition was set up in the middle of the jungle area next to the Kedung Jati cafe. It is a trail of photos along the boardwalk showcasing Borneo's magnificent wildlife. The photos portray mammals, birds, snakes and insects that could be found around you in the forest."

"What followed after that was the Human Force camp which interweaved with the Basara Youth >

Camp. The Human Force Camp was held between 13th – 22nd December followed by the Basara on the 29th December – 7th January. More information about these events can be found in the special edition ‘Subud Voice’ attached. The RSRA management and staff worked closely with the organisers of these important events, in particular regarding the aspects of security, utilities and support services. Many of the residents’ homes were offered as accommodation and resting places for each event.” Download the whole story with photos by clicking:

<http://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/KSGVisitFeb2017.pdf>

YUM ANNUAL REPORT

*A message from the Chair Purnama
Widjajakusumah*

Praise to Almighty God that the year 2016 went well for Yayasan Usaha Mulia.

We are very pleased that the Kalimantan VTC facilities were finally built and started functioning in 2016. With the new buildings, we can accommodate more students and more classes. We hope that the existence of this VTC will contribute greatly to the skills development of the surrounding community.



Another event to celebrate is the achievement of the Community Library in Cipanas which received the award for Best Library in West Java in August 2016. Besides that, our Sustainable Agriculture program has improved not only the health of many families by having good nutrition from organic vegetables, but for some, the sale of their produce has become an additional income. Another hard work by our dedicated staff that has paid off!

In aiming to achieve financial sustainability through our Social Enterprise programs, such as the Edu-Tourism program, we saw a revenue increase in 2016 from 11% to 16% of our overall revenue. We hope that with this revenue, YUM will be able to self-finance more projects in need of funding.



Purnama Widjajakusumah.

We have a long journey ahead to be able to continue serving those in need in Indonesia. In the year 2016, YUM celebrated 40 years of existence. Those years of experience has led to a deep understanding of the needs of the communities we work in as well as building strong relationships with the people we serve and with our Partners and other institutions.

I also take this opportunity to thank our dedicated Donors, Partners, Institutions, Board Members, Staff and Volunteers without whom we would not be able to accomplish our work.

Again we have seen great success. We have the momentum and with your help, let’s keep it rolling. I am sure that all of you believe that we will see a much better future in what we do as a positive contribution in the development of Indonesia. Download the full report by clicking here:

<http://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/YUMAnnualReport2016.pdf>

WORKING WITH LUDWIG

A story from the OUR SUBUD STORY PROJECT collected by Lucy Hampton. Roland Blauensteiner from Subud Brisbane writes about his experience of working with architect, Ludwig Goetz...

I know it is a little late to tell my story working with Ludwig. However, your article asking for Subud stories prompted me to write it since it is also a Subud story.

Having suffered a heart attack in May 1990 I was told by my doctor that I was not to continue working in catering and hospitality. It was suggested that I should take early retirement. I was only 53 at the time and had a mortgage on my town house, so I declined and took their offer to retrain me for office work.

One night I had a dream, which I knew would have some meaning for my future life. In my dream I was walking along a narrow mountain path. Along the trek I passed a wooden cross. Behind the cross a steep and narrow path started; it seemed to lead up to the top of a mountain. However, I continued walking on my path until I came to a very big house. The house was built right beside the mountain and was as tall as the mountain itself.

I entered the house and started climbing its stairs. The stairway led me right up to the top of the building and when I went through a glass door I found myself at the mountain top. There were lovely houses with beautiful gardens all around me. I was really surprised, for I knew in my dream that there was no road leading up this mountain. I approached a person working in one of these wonderful gardens and asked her, "How did they bring all these materials up here to build them without a proper road?" She said, "Well, did you see that steep and narrow path behind the cross on your way to the big house?" I said, "Yes". "Well," she said, "it was via this path that all building material was carried up this mountain." I interpreted this dream to mean that I had to work very hard in the near future.

It was soon afterwards that Ludwig approached me after latihan and asked me if I would be willing to work with him and help him build their house. I was really surprised, for Ludwig knew that I was not well at all and that I had no experience in the building trade. However, he encourage me to try it out, so I promised I would.

I had no idea what this house we were to build would look like, for he never made a model of it. So one day he took me to the building site. I knew the location for I had been there on several occasions. The land overlooked the sea and many islands in Redland Bay. It had been totally cleared where the house was to be. All the many banana trees and mulberry bushes were gone. All that was left was this bare red soil. A big pit had been dug in the middle of the building site for the swimming pool.



Roland Blauensteiner(left) with Ludwig Goetz

“ I had to learn many new skills... ”



Ludwig Goetz based the design of his house on Bedouin tents he had seen in the deserts of Saudi Arabia.

Ludwig told me that the first job we had to do was to dig out trenches for the iron reinforcement at the bottom of the pool. It was in the middle of summer and very hot. We descended down into the pit and started attacking the hard sun-baked clay with mattocks. I soon realized that I could not dig, so I was to shovel the red soil into a wheelbarrow. We could only spend five minutes in the pit and had ten minute breaks to rest and replenish our bodies with fluids. Needless to say, we did not work all day long. Neither of us were very fit and we crawled into our cars and fell out of them at the end of every day.

Well, we managed that difficult task and the concrete could be poured for the base of the swimming pool. I cannot go into the detail as to what kind of house we were building. However, its floor space with all its terraces measure 500 square meters with an octagonal swimming pool in the centre. Everything was made of timber. The house consisted of ten large equal sized rooms, each being of an octagon shape with a pyramid type of roof, which also acts as the ceiling. There are another four smaller square rooms, which act as a bathroom, library, laundry and one is an extension to their bedroom. Everything is designed to face the swimming pool or the sea.

Ludwig had designed it himself. He got his inspiration whilst working in the desert in Saudi Arabia. To begin with, they had to work from Bedouin tents. Every time they had a dust storm he wished to be in a firm building to keep the dust out, so he started thinking of using the shape of the Bedouin tents for the construction of buildings.

I had to learn many new skills. Ludwig showed me day by day what we were doing next and always encouraging me if I felt that I could not do it. I remember the first time when I had to climb time up on the roof to paint it. I was very scared. There was nothing strong enough to save me if I lost my footing, but Ludwig kept encouraging me and he was right. I could do it and in the end felt quite at home running around on the roof with paints and brush in either hand. I used to imagine I was on the snow covered Swiss mountains for everything was painted white. In front of me the sea with all its islands and above the mostly blue sky.

Every time a truckload arrived with new building materials the drivers used to ask us, "Where are the guys that will unload my truck?" It was usually me who answered, "You are looking at them." So we, that is Ludwig and I, unloaded everything by ourselves and stacked it in the big industrial shed in which we also assembled every part of his module home. He taught me how to use many different machines and tools. Ludwig was a person who was always trying to give his best and expected the same of others. He corrected me whenever I did something not quite to his satisfaction, but to me, in a very inoffensive way. At the same time he gave me encouragement to continue and not to give up. There were times when I had to find my own way of doing things; I was not as strong as he. For instance, he wanted me to carry all the floor boards from the shed to the building on my shoulders. I tried it, but had to give it up. My shoulders never had to carry such heavy loads before. Instead I transported them on a wheel barrow. Ludwig looked at me as if to say, "Roland this is very unprofessional" but let me do it my way.

“ It was a privilege to have known Ludwig. ”

We stuck to our daily routines. We worked five days a week from 7am to 5pm with a 15 minute break for morning and afternoon tea and an hour for lunch. Ludwig never said very much, however, at times we talked about our lives especially our childhood. We both lived through the Second World War and had similar experiences to share. Ludwig grew up on the Russian occupied part of East Germany and I in the Russian occupied part of Austria. We both understood where we came from and what shaped our lives.

After we ate our lunch we usually found a quiet spot to have a nap. This was very important to both of us. However, one day we decided to go down to the sea for a short dip to cool off. As we stood waist deep in the water looking across to a nearby island, Ludwig suddenly turned to me and said, "Did I ever tell you, Roland, why I asked you to help me build our house?" I said, "No". So he told me he had a dream in which he and I stood waist deep somewhere in water looking across to land covered in trees. He said, "Here it is. This is my dream. It is exactly how it was in my dream." He said that it was after this dream that he decided to ask me to work with him. At this point I also told my dream of the houses on the mountain.

He knew that I was not well but felt it would be good for me. How right he was. I got stronger and stronger as the months went by. The hard work did me good but also just being with Ludwig was a very therapeutic experience. His calm way of doing things was very new to me. I had worked in the hospitality industry all my life where speed and stress are the norm. Here the work environment was so different.

“*Now, I too felt there was something very special about this place.*”

When we got to laying the floorboards, Ludwig measured and cut them and I was to lay them. They were tongue and groove boards and it was my job to make them fit. Ludwig used to come and inspect them one by one and often he would say, "There is still a gap between those two boards." I would try and hammer them gently closer together. It did not always work, for sometimes the timber was not very straight. After re-inspecting and commenting again about the still existing gaps I could not remedy, I would say to him, "Don't worry, Ludwig, just put a pot plant over the gaps and nobody will notice." One day, after my usual comment, he looked at me very seriously and said, "Do you think I want to open a nursery?" We both looked at each other and burst out laughing.

As building neared completion, people started to come to see what we were doing. They all commented about the wonderful feeling this building exuded. I had no such an experience until much later when I visited Renee and Ludwig in their new home. Until then, it was just my workplace. Now, I too felt there was something very special about this place. I recalled what Bapak once said, that we have to earn everything we have in this world on a spiritual level too. I felt I had earned my spiritual home through helping Ludwig build his.

It was years later when Ludwig asked me once, "Roland did I ever tell you how happy I felt working with you?" I said, "No," but told him that I too had felt happy working with him. We worked together for two whole years without having any bad feeling between us. We never discussed Subud at work although we were both active in the helpers group or on the committee but always attended our latihan, no matter how tired we were. There were times when I felt I was too tired to get up to do latihan, but the minute I rose for latihan all this tiredness left me.

Before Ludwig passed away, my son Alex and his wife Natalie went to visit them. Alex was very impressed with what he saw. He realized at once what a healing influence these two years working with Ludwig must have had on me. Later, he told Renee that it was thanks to my working with Ludwig that his children can still enjoy a healthy granddad. I would never have thought that I would outlive Ludwig.

Last year when Ludwig passed away, it was very unexpected news for me. I had only been back for just over two weeks. This is also the reason for this late story about working with Ludwig.

It was a privilege to have known Ludwig.

May he rest in peace.

A PICTURE OF GRACE

Leonard Hitchcock writes...

Edward Mackenzie, whose wife Manuela had passed away recently, came to stay with us in the summer and there was a small painting of Harold's in his room which had a powerful effect on him and which he describes in the attached article which is actually a letter he wrote to some Subud friends. I have also attached a photo of the painting.

I thought that what Edward wrote was so interesting in that it talks about how a work of art can articulate or give voice to feelings or experiences...or somehow provide a symbolic framework for our understanding. This is fascinating in its own right but the other reason for seeing it in the 'Voice' is that, as Edward describes, this experience of Manuela's passing was shared by many Subud brothers and sisters who knew Manuela in several different countries including USA, Australia and Indonesia.

The piece also serves as a remembrance of Manuela by Edward for all those very many members around the world who knew her....not least through her work over many years on the translation and publication of Bapak's talks on which she worked as editor, working closely with Sharif and Astuti...

A recent letter from Edward Mackenzie to some friends...

I would like to preface my story below by saying that when Manuela was diagnosed with terminal cancer we both were given an understanding; she – that her cancers were a blessing and I - that her cancers were a gift.

By now Leonard should have sent the picture of the painting to you.

I was staying with the Hitchcocks recently and one morning I awoke and noticed one of Harold's paintings and was immediately drawn to it. The reason is that it told the story of Manuela and me during those last few months better than I was able to.

I would like to let you know what I saw.

The lightness washing over the painting in a white arc represents the bubble we both were in - and the fact that there is only a quarter of the arc in the painting corresponds with our seeing how our experience was not just about us, but that there were Subud people in many countries actively participating also. When I say bubble it was like having a space provided for us to be closer to the guidance of Almighty God than our normal states. It was sometimes a daily experience. When we were surrendered, God truly helped us both.

Manuela with her halo is standing with me but is also on her way from this world to the next. Her ship is already sailing away. Her gradual departure I saw in front of me day after day. So when she died it was merely leaving her body behind so that she could stay on the ship. In the painting she is beautiful. During her last three months Manuela lost a lot of weight, She was just a skeleton, yet when I looked at her she was a most radiantly beautiful woman.

I stand encased in the armour of the forces of this world. I have no halo but I do have a connection to Almighty God (thy rod and thy staff) which connects me to the power of God but also connects me to Manuela. Indeed it is the spiritual connection which

has been the most important connection we have had during the last fifty years. I have also lowered my sword - I no longer need to protect her. Three or four weeks before she died I experienced being told that I had looked after her OK but God was now looking after her and actually was a lot better at it than me. You will see behind me a basket - I still have things to do. On the far right of

“ A work of art can provide a symbolic framework for our understanding...”

“ Our stay here is part of our spiritual journey...”



The Picture of Grace. Painting by Harold Hitchcock.

the painting is my ship which is ready to sail at any time and thankfully will head off in the same direction as Manuela.

So the painting states firmly that our stay here is part of our spiritual journey - we have to experience this place and even though encased in lower forces we have to be committed and diligent (Bapak's words) to our spiritual path. This was exactly our experience. We were shown the fickleness of the heart and mind which can be bought, and the strength of our spiritual being and actually our spiritual being is our true reality – our true normality.

So before Manuela died and after Manuela died I was full of joy for the blessing and gift we had been given. And I am still full of joy. Sadness also but fleeting.

I thank Almighty God for the latihan.

WHEN BAPAK MADE THE MEN DANCE

Sebastian Paeman writes...

In the 70s there was a time when the men in the Netherlands were trying to follow Bapak's advice in working together and starting enterprises. At the time this led to a lot of conflict and disharmonyas we had to learn to put our egos aside. Bapak visited the Netherlands during this episode on one of his world tours.

On the last night of his stay we were doing latihan in the Hilton Hotel in Rotterdam. After the ladies, it was the men's turn. Bapak started the latihan as usual, but then to our surprise, after about 10 minutes we heard Sharif shout 'finish' and the latihan suddenly stopped. Then Sharif translated

'Bapak would like you to dance with each other.'

We all froze, and I remember thinking, 'surely he didn't say 'dance', that can't be right, I must have misheard this. Let's wait till Sharif repeats it and see what Bapak meant.' It seemed that most of us had the same response, as nobody moved.

We all stood there like planks, staring at Bapak and Sharif sitting on the stage. To our shock and horror we then heard Bapak shout in English in the microphone 'Dance!' I thought 'Oh no Bapak, please, anything but this..' Dutch men, like most Northern European men, don't have a culture of dancing with each other, unlike Middle Eastern, Greek or Native American men. This just felt incredibly awkward and embarrassing.

We looked nervously at each other and then, hesitantly, we started to dance. It was dancing in a state of latihan and many of us sang at the same time. Some formed small circles, others were part of a large circle, we were holding hands, or putting our arms around each other's shoulders. There were even some couples, striding across the hall, doing a sort of waltz. What made it worse was that Bapak was laughing at us and pointing out to Sharif which men he seemed to think were particularly hilarious. Bapak was obviously having a great time!

The first minutes I remember as being very painful. Something in my chest hurt as if it was being ripped open. But after a while gradually things began to get better. The movements and singing became more harmonious and it started to feel really nice. My feelings became wide open and I experienced such a sense of freedom and cleanliness in my chest. The barriers between us seemed to disappear and it was as if the men became like one. The whole experience probably lasted for about 15 minutes, but it felt like ages. When Bapak finally said 'finish' I felt disappointed as by then I wanted to go on forever. Bapak finished by saying that he hoped that from now on we would get on better with each other.

When we came out of the hall, we passed by the ladies who had been waiting in the foyer. They all stared at us and after a while one of the ladies asked 'What has he done to you? You all look radiant!' Things did improve in the Netherlands after this and three very successful enterprises came into existence which created jobs for Subud members and financially contributed generously for many years to the Brotherhood.

Recently I asked Sharif if he remembered Bapak doing this dance-testing in other countries as well and he confirmed this, but he said that it had only happened a few times. ●



. The Rotterdam Hilton Hotel, a strange thing happened here in the 70s.

“ *The barriers between us seemed to disappear...* ”

A LETTER TO THE OLDIES IN SUBUD

From Tony BP, that is Anthony Bright-Paul...

Before I go to sleep, whatever else I have been doing, or however late it is, I like to read from 'The Tests of Bapak' – it is quite my favourite book. I do not have to read long, for invariably there is a passage that gets my attention. A few nights ago I was on page 194 No10, where Bapak tested Mr A: "How is God's guidance for you in your daily life?"

This set me thinking. How is God's guidance for me in my daily life? And as I thought about this I suddenly realised how I was receiving guidance in the most trivial of things, as well as important things. To Mr A. Bapak said 'You are as if blind to God's guidance in daily life'.

Eileen and I are moving house, or at least we hope we are. We have sold our property - rather well actually - and we have bought in Devon a delightful bungalow perched high up with some 18 steps up to the front door. Inside it was immaculate, owned by an old couple that had lived there for almost 50 years. It was only the third property we looked at and within an hour we had made an offer, which was accepted two days later. So we have bought and sold, yet nothing happens until contracts are signed, and the old couple has found an apartment in which to move to.

It is difficult to describe in detail how everything happened, how our daughter Lisa insisted on picking us up from home and later delivering us back again. Indeed in our new house Lisa and her husband will be less than 10 minutes away.

A little late when they stayed with us in Farnborough Jerry attacked the garage that was full of clutter from some of the 43 years we have lived here. Never before had we seen the garage half empty, with the rest of the stuff neatly stacked. Now you could say 'Is this God's guidance?' or simply family helping out? But there is a taste to it – there is a sort of wonder that things have worked out that way.

Now our attic was also full of all sorts and I am no longer able to climb the ladder and negotiate the rafters. Happens I see the little team of workers who have been digging up our road and laying a huge pipeline for water. I have filmed them at their work and they have come to our door for water and occasionally I made them drinks. They are real West Country, hailing from near Chippenham, 2 hours drive away. They always come to shake my hand, indeed the older man Steve once made to embrace me – really funny.

Well, seeing them working on a Bank Holiday Sunday I invited all four of them into our garden for drinks and Cornish pasties. I then asked George and Joe if they would help me with the attic. No problem! Old bedsteads, old gramophones and all sorts were handed down. When I got out some tenners for the young fellers, the older man said, 'Put your money away'. In the event Eileen pressed them, but they would have done the lot for nothing.

Before I go to sleep I would maybe test something. I have got to tell you that I am no good at testing and though I do get some reactions I have no idea what they mean. But I don't care as I usually sleep well afterwards. So I could not resist testing about God's guidance. I don't know about that except I felt happy.

Now this letter is for the real oldies, who perhaps cannot get to a group any more, since night driving has become a problem – in fact all driving has become a wee bit more hazardous. So in the morning when I wake up and go to the loo I most often already feel the latihan while sitting on the throne! Truly. I go downstairs and put the dishwasher on and the kettle and go to my garage to do my latihan. I am very lucky as it is sort of secluded as we are next to a brook and I can sing or



Tony and Eileen Bright-Paul

“ *I could not resist to test about God's guidance...* ”

>

chant or move around to my hearts delight.

Now some of my good friends like Dr Rachman and even Mardiyah Tarantino in faraway California, were a bit concerned about my doing latihan all on my own most every day. But I don't do half an hour – I do as much or as long as it happens. Again, I sometimes start by saying 'God is Great', but on the other hand I sometimes go straight in without any 'quiet' and the latihan flies off by itself. It depends a bit upon the night before and how I feel the exercise at once when I wake up.

Another thing intrigued me, how Bapak tested on himself how it was to walk with his jiwa and to sit down with his jiwa and get up with his jiwa – apparently he went on for a long time seeming to enjoy himself and said it was like a good massage. Of course, Yours Truly had to try this, particularly as my walking is awful. When I park my car and walk to the supermarket just in the car park I will try 'Can I walk with my jiwa?' Of course I fail. When I am watching TV I often feel the latihan quite spontaneously. At other times when I am really caught up watching a great tennis match, I will also try to see if I can receive.

Believe me I am not one who has seen lights or passed through walls or left my body or anything supernatural like that. I am just an ordinary Subud member, who keeps in touch with a few of my old friends. Oh yes, I do try to receive and I do get some sort of results that I do not understand, but there is one thing that I do understand, even if I am worried sick over some lifetime problem, this other me seems to be happy all the time. ●

FINDING THE RIGHT JOB

Belinda Brazier writes from Vienna...

After 12 years working at Vienna Airport for Austrian Airlines and El Al Israel Airlines I finally left the branch to find a new job.

On a rainy November weekend, a couple of weeks after I left my airport life, I unexpectedly found some left over articles of uniform cloth in my wardrobe, which belonged to the airline and which I had to return to them as soon as possible. At that time I worked temporarily at a Christmas market in Vienna. The next Monday I went to the El Al office at the airport to return the pieces of cloth. There I had a cheerful conversation with one of my former colleagues about my uncertain future and job.

On the way back to the city I missed the train that would have brought me back home and I had to wait for the next train to come. I arrived back in the centre of Vienna during rush hour where I incidentally met my boyfriend who just happened to come out of work. He initially wanted to invite me to a traditional Japanese teahouse. We were supposed to take a couple of stops with the metro. Although, already in the carriage, the train could not move due to a technical problem. Everyone had to leave the train.

We then decided to stay in the area and have some dinner in one of the Asian restaurants



A bookshop in old Vienna.

there. Usually we would visit our favourite Sushi bar, but there was a new restaurant that we had not tried yet.

After finishing our food a friend of ours unexpectedly turned up. She asked us to stay longer to join her for her meal, although we already finished ours. She also asked us to wait until her partner turned up, who actually arrived much later. So we ended up spending much more time in the restaurant than originally planned, talking about ideas of how we could spend the rest of the evening. We finally decided to see a movie in one of the nearby cinemas, although not able to fix a location immediately, they were all within walking distance.

Finally we left our friends and headed towards a chosen cinema, and on our way we intuitively changed the route. One of my habits is to explore different streets, especially in the maze-like old town of Vienna where you would have an extensive choice of possibilities to get to your final destination.

Suddenly, out of the blue, I wanted to cross a nearby medieval square with a very old church. It would only mean a little further loop to reach the cinema. The square led into a street with an old second-hand and university bookstore. A shop where I worked more than 15 years ago, also during the pre-Christmas period (Advent).

It was about 8.30pm and we still had a half hour before the movie would start. At that very moment when we passed the bookstore my former boss stepped out of the shop. She desperately needed a new employee for the military books department. She immediately offered me the job, which I am finally now happy to fulfil.

Everything came into the right place during that afternoon and evening. I was very sure that this job was a gift of God, even though most of the customers are fascinated by wars with all the suffering and impacts they bring.

Story and photo by Belinda Brazier ●

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