



## Message from the WSA Chair: make more progress, provide more evidence of Subud



*When Bapak lived in this world, he led the way. What would Bapak say to us now?  
Inset: Bapak in his office at the PTS Widjojo building with map of Kalimantan on the wall.  
Main photo: Bapak on the river in Kalimantan*

### *Luke Pensney's third quarter review for 2012...*

#### **Quo vadis?**

'May you live in interesting times,' goes the Chinese proverb. And we do live in such times. With the world as turbulent as ever, even as we Subud members still face Almighty God & Bapak's two defined duties for us: To worship Almighty God in following the latihan of Subud, also to work hard & put this latihan & our talents into practise in our work. Our usaha or effort in this world. The two clearly need to be in harmony. Then with intention/nyat, our promise to God can develop. It still seems as though the evidence of who & what we are as Subud in the world, is under-developed 25 years now since Bapak left this world. Ibu's recent talks underscore her concern with our need to achieve this harmonious balance & make more progress, provide more evidence of Subud & the latihan at work in the world – an example for Mankind.

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## Subud Status Quo

The evidence now in Subud is of an extraordinary array of individual talents at work, 55 years since Subud came to the West. Alongside still modest projects and enterprises across the spectrum of human endeavour. The 'saffron effect' of a broad array of focused, smaller-scale, high quality activities, is now displaying real excellence. Even so, these activities are still spread thinly across the world, still on an individual or in smaller scale projects, as though we may have needed to 'get it right' on this micro-scale first.

What are we good at?

## Next Steps

How do we move beyond this? What would Bapak say to us now? It is likely he would ask, 'How much are you putting your latihan into practise? How willing are you to really work hard & harmoniously together, to build larger projects together again, to start afresh with renewed courage? ...do you ask God if there is more to receive now..?'

When Bapak lived in this world, he led the way – we followed Bapak's vision, guidance & direction. Then, we stumbled with larger projects as we omitted to develop & manage them in a fully professional manner – i.e. by normal development/operating standards. In this way, outcomes could have been in balance with the strong inner guidance that positioned them.

The larger scale, as well as our excellent micro-scale activities, now, together, provide clues as to our way forward.

## What are we good at – what produces excellent results?!

There are a number of activities that we do very well by any standards. These include:

**Congresses/Gatherings** – we are really quite good at organizing well run, informal international/national conferences. We have had 53 years of experience: 12 world congresses, innumerable national congresses, & zonal meetings across 74 countries in 8-9 zones.

**Centres/Groups** – many groups are the focus for dynamic Subud groups & communities & work quite well: Rungan Sari, Portland, Lewes, Wisma Subud, Montreal, Santiago, Christchurch, Loudwater, etc.

In addition, we know from feed-back from non-Subud visitors, that most Subud Centres offer a special, hard-to-define, quality influenced by the latihan, that makes them feel comfortable when they attend events, workshops, meetings, etc.

**Wing/Affiliate Organizations** – SDIA-Susila Dharma International; MSF-The Muhammad Subuh Foundation, more recently, SICA-Subud International Cultural Association, are evolving, building strength, in many (but not all) areas. They now meet or exceed the quality of similarly-sized, non-Subud organizations with whom they co-exist.

This is a reason why specialized foundations/associations from outside Subud are now drawn to these Subud entities. Micro-scale but of exceptional/world class quality – examples include YTS in Kalimantan; SDIA/SD Congo's health centres joint venture with The Buchan Foundation.

**Kalimantan frontier** – we do not, as yet, have the larger projects Bapak spoke of. The rejuvenated Kalimantan Gold-KG - now no longer a Subud enterprise, but a publicly traded company managed by Subud members. KGC now has new potential after 30+ years of evolution, to finally realize a portion of Bapak's vision for mining in Kalimantan as twin exploration programs progress in central & East Kalimantan with international mining company partners. This is alongside urban/cultural centre development, agriculture & forestry, etc.

Rungan Sari is a striking frontier example of an increasingly widely recognized 21st century pioneer community at the forefront of Indonesian development. It is already a model for small-scale Indonesian communities in Kalimantan to reference. Phase II of its development has begun, supported by Hamid da Silva's Rungan Sari Meeting Centre and Resort, and associated enterprises. In addition, there are several strong projects including the Bina Cita Utama (BCU) school, the Kalimantan Gold Corporation (KGC) and its Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (YTS) community development, Yayasan Usaha Mulia (YUM) social development, the Eco-Village, Borneo Productions International (film), Kalimantan Tour Destinations (eco-tourism, riverboat cruises), Usaha Dharma (enterprise support), etc. What further projects will emerge to join these pioneers already in residence?

*To read the whole report, go to SV Home page/ Literary supplement and click on Luke's Report* ●

## ARE YOU READY FOR DEATH?

Harris Smart and Peter Jenkins have a video conversation (Parts 1 & 2) about death. They talk about attitudes towards death, such as people's fear of death, and they also talk about practical arrangements which can be made for exiting the planet. They tell stories about how death has affected their lives and they finish with a joke. They are currently running workshops about death to help people feel less fearful and more relaxed about it. You can contact Harris on [subudvoice@gmail.com](mailto:subudvoice@gmail.com) or Peter at [peterjenkins4@gmail.com](mailto:peterjenkins4@gmail.com)  
Go to: <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ssev6ily1N4&feature=plcp>>  
and: <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpdkAuMtRLE>>

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# In response to the October issue of SV

*The October issue of Subud Voice was subtitled "Despair and its Antidotes" and in it we looked at the feelings some people have of a "malaise in Subud" and sometimes radical suggestions that some people have for change. Balancing this we had several articles about positive experiences in Subud such as the recent Subud Britain Congress which was widely regarded as "the best congress we ever had".*

*Many more people than usual responded to this issue with their letters and comments. One of the most fulsome responses came from Maya Korzybska. She wants her remarks to be regarded as her personal views and in no way an "official" statement from her position on the WSA Executive. She writes....*

I would like my intervention to be mostly questions for reflection, responding to various ideas expressed in the previous Subud Voice.

Reynold Feldman's article questions the assumption that we have no "rules" in Subud. He lists a number of rules such as that men and women do latihan separately, or that candidates must wait for 3 months before being opened, perhaps implying that all these "rules" might be open to examination at some time.

Rather than determining the length and or the need for a 'waiting period' for applicants, should we not be concerning ourselves more with the quality of that time....as we see in Victoria Farina's article this was an incredibly important time for her....so what is our real reason/need/obligation for this time?....what is the real help needed and wish expressed by the applicant?

How can we be able to quietly feel and trust in our feeling as to when is the right time to open someone even if that may be before the end of the theoretical 3 months....if we are trying to listen to our 'inner voice' maybe this is really what we should be concerning ourselves with rather than: 'to abolish or not to abolish that is the question !'

Concerning men and women doing Latihan together I could joke and say aaagggghhh ! Oh no! Seriously though, I can only go by my own experience when I used to translate for Bapak during men's Latihan and testing in France. My feeling was to close my eyes and create a hermetic bubble around me !!! Anyway, my question there would be what would be the point or the advantage ? (Other than spouses as we already know who are connected innerly anyway or parents and their children).

Originally (way back when) men and women did Latihan together and then Bapak changed that... I believe he must have had a good reason, so do some people really see our doing latihan together as a solution to our 'problem' or are we throwing around 'radical ideas' just to create a debate?

## **An Interesting Story**

I have an interesting story... about 35 years ago a split came within the Alicante group in Spain, the group that left went to another town and decided among other things to do Latihan men and women together... years later a lady who had been opened in that group and for whom men and women doing Latihan together was the norm, heard about the Alicante group and decided to come to simply check it out. When she was there the first time and Latihan was to begin, she was relieved and happy to discover that men and women did Latihan separately... she told me this story herself and I was intrigued at how strongly she had felt it as she was a relatively new member.

*The October issue also included discussion of the value of reading Bapak's talks...*

**Reading and listening to Bapak's talks...** what I find intriguing about this is that there are real extremes, (though I tend to believe that the silent majority is somewhere in the middle). The extremes are at one end, quoting Bapak (often out of context) to tell someone else what they should be doing and at the other end, saying that reading or listening to Bapak's talks must be replaced by only listening to our inner voice.

My question is, why can't we do both ? We listen to TED talks from fascinating people, we read books about exceptional experiences, we thrive on all sorts of insightful advice, about personal empowerment and clarity of vision... why should we exclude Bapak, do we seriously believe he has nothing left to offer us? *continued >*





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I still see Bapak as the one from whom I received (even if indirectly) this path that I have chosen, I respect that and also acknowledge that he 'received' much more than I have, or probably ever will in this life at least, still I very much try to follow my inner guidance. In truth I read Bapak every now and then, yet what I mostly find interesting is the way that there is often a click when one's inner finally understands something he tried to explain to us.

I understand the talks as explanations which can help us, if we allow them to... it doesn't have to mean blindly following every word uttered (in any case time and context are not necessarily the same and we know that Bapak evolved in what he said as years went by). In truth we have often heard Ibu Rahayu recommend that we read Bapak's talks, yet I believe that she does this because she really understands the help they can provide us with and is hoping we won't miss that opportunity.

Again one day we had an interesting discussion in France about Bapak's talks, with ladies who enjoyed them and others who had no interest, then together we decided to test how was it for us to read Bapak's talks if we were reading them in an open state from the right inner place... Maybe this is the key... how we read or listen to the talks... after the testing one girl said, "Oh my... I have to go home and search for the talks in my dusty boxes..."

For me at the end of the day, it is all about balance and if we have very strong extreme feelings one way or another, about any of this, then maybe we need to try and understand where that is coming from... as they say it's always about something else... Certainly we need to believe in our selves and our own capacity to receive and to explain something if necessary rather than 'quoting Bapak', but it still boils down to each individual and where they are at.

*Reynold's article also included the comment that Subud was stuck in a Javanese time warp...*

So my conclusion is that these 'changes' are not in fact solutions to our problem (if we have one) I believe we have thousands of problems as many and as individual as the number of members we are... I don't believe there is any one thing (I am not even sure I understand what de-Javanising actually means) which will suddenly turn Subud into this hip thing that everyone wants to join, which spreads around the world like wild fire... doing great humanitarian work, social enterprises, beautiful art and generally inspiring people...

I believe that it does come back to each of us as individuals... it may sound corny but I really do, I can only focus on myself and the way I see and deal with any one of these concerns or issues and maybe pray that if I do things well others might be inspired to follow suit... I think that trying to tell people what to do or what is right and what is wrong, rarely works unless they are actually asking for advice and wanting help... otherwise it usually creates more disturbance than helpful insight, reactive debates, where even being optimistic is equated to 'hiding from reality'.

Many people have pessimistic views about the world in general and yet recently the Dalai Lama was pointing out that compared to the beginning of the 20th century, nowadays more and more people do not consider war the only option and many more people now have an ecological awareness..more and more people are following spiritual paths... so yes I don't mind being optimistic, within Subud as well, in fact I have always found that Subud is very much a reflection of current society.

I do not think that Java has an overt influence in Subud in the western world! I just don't see it in the meetings, gatherings and congresses worldwide. I would say that in Indonesia, the Javanese culture may well be predominant (understand there are numerous different cultures within Indonesia itself) because it is a strong culture, but are we asking Indonesians to give up their own culture? It might be useful for us Anglo Saxons to realize how some cultures see Subud as being very much Anglo Saxon dominated... so it's always a question of perspective.

*Will Subud continue to exist or fade away...?*

I don't think we can know what Subud as an organization will look like in 50 or 100 years... I can only hope that whichever way it goes or however it develops, people will still be able to receive the Latihan in the way it was originally passed on to us and that it is beneficial for their lives as well as for those they are in contact with and ultimately humanity... that there will always be either individuals or a form of organization, to help those who need help, either in their receiving per se, or in their possibility to be able to practice this path in the best conditions, be given helpful explanations to help them... so that we don't lose the reality and essence of our Latihan kejiwaan of Subud with its uniqueness and which is the path chosen at this point. I do not have the pretension to say that Subud (as passed on to us by Bapak) is the only way or the 'right' way, I think it is an opportunity that I have been given and it is the path I have decided to follow.

I don't know what the practical solution is for the concerns that really worry people, still I believe that everything is a reflection of where we are at individually and maybe the key is to realize that we are each, part of the solution to the problem, but to also consider that not everyone has the same problem nor sees things in the same way. At the same time whether you want to say it is in God's hands or not, I do believe that we do not and cannot direct or *continued >*

*I believe it comes back to each of us as individuals...*

control the big picture because that in fact goes against the very nature of Subud and our individual receiving.

Lastly, personally I do not think any of us should criticize or condemn anyone for voicing their opinion... one way or the other... at the same time I feel that in that expression, we should not point fingers and always be careful about judging others or presuming we understand or know where they are coming from and what is their reality. So I do not agree or disagree with this type of debate, everything has a reason and it will effect people or not, one way or another.

## Seeds? More responses to the October issue...

FROM EDWARD FIDO (AUSTRALIA)

Dear Harris, An extremely interesting issue.

The recent SESI bulletin which quoted Bapak as saying Subud would not really expand worldwide until enough major enterprises were successful and funded major social projects rang a bell.

My gut feeling is that, somewhere below the surface, far from undue influence, something is on the verge of happening.

It's so damn easy to be discouraged when looking at some groups but Subud is not about groups, or individuals. It's certainly not about "ME" (in immense capital letters, of course).

One of the things that strikes me is that the time has come for Subud members at large to realise that Subud is bigger than individuals and that we (desperately) need to learn to work as a team. The team is more than the sum of the individual progresses, or regresses, of its members. The other thing about Subud is that, as Bapak said, it's not for "us" but the whole world: a perspective we often forget.

The issue may well seed something.

FROM HARYANTI STUART (WALES)

Dear Harris, I meant to write to you earlier – Subud Voice just keeps getting better and better.

I found the most recent one, airing views on the state of Subud now very interesting.

I attended 'the best ever' Congress in Britain in August, and I have to say magic happened. I'm familiar with Congress highs, and the bubble that bursts sooner or later afterwards, but this was different. None of us could quite say why. But whatever the reason, I experienced a depth and solidity and a level of professionalism in all areas that was to say the least, heartening. The age gap didn't exist – young and old worked together happily, with lightness and humour, especially when it was something creative like the production I was involved in – a shadow puppet play adapted by Sylvia la Breton from Hans Christian Anderson's "The Nightingale".

The testing sessions were deep and real, even profound, and as I wandered around I often heard someone saying to a friend how "good the testing is this Congress". And a very experienced regional helper told me she had been invited to join a younger group of helpers to give them support." They didn't need it", she said. "I was blown away by their perception and sensitivity and I am so glad I witnessed it".

The business sessions went really well for the most part, and the presentations by Susila Dharma International were proof that at least in this arena, Subud is working well in the world. There were members from at least fourteen countries, and in a way it felt like a mini world congress.

I came away refreshed, renewed and very hopeful

FROM ILAINA LENNARD (ENGLAND)

Hi Harris, I have now just re-read Reynold's article and your's and Maya's interesting comments. Whilst I do understand and sympathise with Maya's point of view, I think nevertheless that controversial articles like Reynold's give us something to think about. But not to be upset about.

Reynold's views may express that of many others or they may not. He has courage to write about how he thinks. But to me his strong views are just part of the rich mix we have in Subud. It's good that he feels free enough to say what he thinks.

But I think the danger is that if all dissatisfied members freely added their bit, it could seem like these were not only the views of those members, but of the whole membership. So whilst tolerance is essential, it is necessary to be very careful as to what is actually published.

Do I think there is a malaise in Subud? Well the UK Congress did not show it, so maybe it is not the case everywhere. But I am not as you know able to do latihan at present so do not often see my fellow members. Perhaps it's a kind of test for me, as to the reality of Subud, but as a continuing Presence within my being, I can say that Subud still passes the test.



*Haryanti Stuart writes of the recent British Congress... I came away refreshed, renewed and very hopeful*

*Subud is bigger than individuals... we (desperately) need to work as a team.*

*continued >*

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FROM STEFAN FREEDMAN (ENGLAND)

Hi Harris, I was so pleased to read Reynold's article in SV and your editorial. I agree with your remarks that it's not easy to discuss such things. We have created a community culture which emphasises being positive and being harmonious, and with the best of intentions this favours a kind of ostrich approach to problems.

The funny thing is that so many of our concerns – for example about continuity, about finding funds or filling committee positions – would vanish like mist if we had a good influx of new members. I think it's probably not fair or realistic to expect this to come from 2nd or 3rd generation children of Subud families. Most of us who felt drawn to Subud were finding a different path from that which our parents took, and so it is with each generation. But there are many unknown people out there who may be interested in following the latihan if two simple things were to happen:

a) If they hear about it

I don't mean evangelising or persuading anyone. I do mean simply to include Subud on the map of options that spiritually inclined people know about. They will already know about religion, yoga, meditation. These suit some better than others. But most have never heard of Subud.

b) If they see the essential simplicity of the latihan. In other words: that they do not need to believe in anything, just to be open-minded and try it.

In my local group we were down to two men and no women. It was even more dismal than that because I was one of the two men, and am touring with my group work for half of the year. So Subud Ipswich, UK was almost defunct. Mike and I decided to put some simple printed info around in our area and got no response whatsoever. So we tried another tack and advertised (low key, locally) a one hour meeting. I also put an ad in [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) which is for people to find others with similar interests (eg spiritual).

The brief meeting was for people to talk about their spiritual journeys and to hear a little about Subud. This placed those coming on a more equal footing (because their own experiences were also of value). Having been to a Quaker intro meeting I borrowed their idea of offering simple refreshments to make it more informal and welcoming.

After one enjoyable meeting we repeated the experiment a month later. Over the last year we have been blessed with 8 new members (men and women) and two young members have moved to the area. Three women living at a distance have been coming regularly. Suddenly Ipswich feels like a thriving group. And yet the 'promotion' was very light. There was no attempt whatsoever to entice or persuade anyone. I realise that many of us – partly due to shyness perhaps – are incredibly secretive about Subud. Maybe this experience could be of use to others.

FROM KUSWANDA (INDONESIA)

Dear Harris, Wonderful reading! I especially like Reynold Feldman's article of Subud being trapped in a time warp...

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## They sent their news...

*Ilaina Lennard reports on some of those who didn't make the UK Congress but sent their news...*

**Harvey Peters, Glansevin, (Wales), and Zambia:**

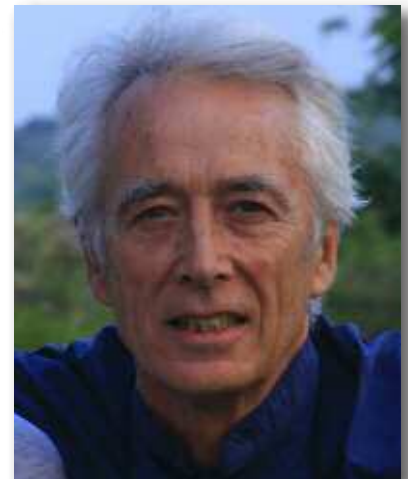
I am in Zambia at present doing lots of things. I was hoping to make the UK congress but it didn't work out. However, I was able to go to the WSA meetings in Vancouver which I found very interesting. I am expecting to go to Nigeria in October to facilitate a program for a Catholic NGO and look forward to meeting as many of the Nigerian members as possible.

**Santa Raymond, Central London:** Very sadly again I didn't make UK Congress as it clashed with a special family event. The place where I spent my childhood summers has a week for small people learning to row and sail boats – so had a glorious time with my two grand daughters. But I do hope next year the dates are different as I really miss being with everyone.

**Marcus Lampard, Wales:** I don't do Congress, no apologies just too in the face for me. I am quite a sociable animal though. Daniella and I are both well, older but not sure about wiser. I maintain I am eight really ! If you look at [www.mandinam.com](http://www.mandinam.com) you can see more.

The need to share has brought so many lovely people here, who use the Shepherd's Hut, and Gypsy Van. Most of the visitors are medics, teachers, nurses all exhausted and in need of peace and quiet, all of which we have. Starry skies, hot tubs, wood fires and 450 acres all to themselves.

Over the last 4 months a film company came and filmed what will be a superb film seen by millions. Kevin Macdonald is the Director, who made "The Last King of Scotland", and a documentary on Bob Marley. It is loosely based on a book called How I Live Now by Meg Rossof.



*Harvey Peters divides his time between Wales and Zambia.*

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But it was very wet, possibly the wettest summer ever. 50/60 people on site most shoot days so challenging to us all. The film is all to do with how a group of children manage in a third world war scenario, without guidance and moral boundaries. Quite topical therefore.

**Alexandra Asseily, Central London:** I was sorry not to be able to join you all at the UK Congress, but I had been away constantly since June – working all over the place – the US, Lebanon, Rwanda, where we did another Healing the Wounds of History Conference/workshop with the Rwandan National Unity and Reconciliation Council, Lebanon, UK, Indonesia and Rungan Sari for GHFP meetings and 2 weeks of Ramadan, followed by London and then France, Switzerland.

I am now just off again to Rome for meetings on Forgiveness projects: one meeting is with the founder of the Ara Pacis Foundation, of which I am a founder member, and another which was a meeting with Leonel Navaerz and Garrett Thomson (a former ISC chair) to discuss Schools of Forgiveness and how to set them up in Lebanon. Leonel is a remarkable priest from Colombia, who has set up schools of forgiveness all over South America.

We then went to Assisi for a very big gathering there, which was organised by the Fetzer Institute. I am on their World Religions and Spiritualities Council and have been asked to talk on two panels. One on Teaching Love and Forgiveness and one on someone I admire from a different religion – so I have chosen Bapak!

It will be the first time I have really gone public big time on my connection with Subud. I have been hesitant, as it has been (and is still) so delicate in Lebanon, with Religious tensions running so high and being on the edge of yet another sectarian war, which will drag us all in, as in Syria. So sad to be back living on the edge of war, yet again. – [Alexandra@asseily.org](mailto:Alexandra@asseily.org) • [www.healingwoundsofhistory.org](http://www.healingwoundsofhistory.org)

**Amanda Lloyd, England:** Every year I think I really should go to UK Congress, it's such fun, get so many insights and wonderful latihan – but manage to get there once in a blue moon.

I'm working with a number of local and national organisations around the delivery of social care mostly. We've just developed a model for a SE council to help them in how they buy care from the private sector and charities. I'm spending a lot of time in Maidenhead at the moment, helping them to identify what service people want, what's available and what can the council do to support the development of the types of services that don't yet exist. So – interesting work, certainly, but when I talk about it most people's eyes glaze over!

So sad  
to be living  
on the edge  
of war,  
yet again

## FAVOURITE PHOTO



*The Rofin stand at the Forensic Science Conference in Hobart. Designed by Latif Vogel.*

### THE LITTLE THINGS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

This month's favourite photo was taken by Latif Vogel and it shows the exhibition stand that he created for the Subud company Rofin Australia at a recent forensic science exhibition in Hobart, Australia. Latif runs his own [continued >](#)

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design business and his somewhat futuristic looking design expresses the nature of this company which is at the leading edge of scientific instruments.

Rofin has been going in Australia now for about 40 years. Started by Vernon Fraval (recently sadly deceased), the company has grown into one of the world's leaders in forensic science instruments. Rofin's instruments are used for crime scene investigation and laboratory work by more than 80 law enforcement and investigation agencies around the world including people like the FBI and Scotland Yard.

Often if you are watching one of those American TV shows like CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) you will see them using the Rofin instrument The Polilight which has been the world leader in this field for many years.

The managing director is now Hadrian Fraval, Vernon's son, and employs about 16 people. As well as Forensic Science Applications, Rofin specializes in many other applications of light, such as the lighting of buildings (they lit up a big one in Hong Kong) and the use of light in medical situations such as the treatment of skin cancer.

People often ask what makes an enterprise sustainable and successful. Rofin demonstrates many of the attributes. Innovation and expertise (Hadrian is trained as a scientist) backed up by hard work and bulldog tenacity through thick and thin. The company is highly respected around the world and has won outstanding export awards.

Hadrian told me what a happy collaboration he had had with Latif, and how deeply satisfying it is when a relationship with another Subud member works out well. He also mentioned that it is often the little things in life that make all the difference. Latif suggested that the exhibition stand should include a free coffee machine and this proved to be a major draw card with more than 1000 cups of coffee being given away. (You can see it there in the back on the left of frame. There's Hadrian foreground extreme right.) ●

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## What can we do to help Subud grow?

*Hanavi Hirsh writes...*

Bapak told us that Subud would fade away unless we were able to demonstrate the fruits of the latihan – not by being “holy” but through social projects that will help people in their lives. He said that there is no other way. He may have been right.

There are many people in Subud who are talented and dedicated teachers, social workers, doctors, therapists, and so on. But to be able to do things “our way”, we must build our own schools, clinics, and homes for people who need special care. That will cost a lot. Although, in some instances, we might succeed in getting grants from foundations – Susila Dharma has attracted such funding without even trying to so – Bapak encouraged us to create very substantial business projects that will generate the funds needed so that we will not be dependent on others. He was only interested in seeing us succeed in business as a means to that end.

But who can we call on to do that? Subud members whose work is not in the business world may be uncomfortable even thinking about such a project. Taking such an initiative is clearly the responsibility of our experienced entrepreneurs. Those few who are well prepared to make the effort, however, very much need the support of the rest of us – encouragement above all, but also financial support through many small investments. Only with a large base of Subud shareholders can we be confident that our business projects will not deviate from their noble mission.

And therein rests the problem: We have never gotten around to creating a way for the many to support the efforts of the few. As things now stand, even if a most promising project is presented by very competent and experienced people there is no legal way for Subud investors (other than the very wealthy) to support it.

The way forward, as it is done in “the outside world”

Bapak told us WHY we must create strong businesses, but it is up to us to figure out HOW to do that. (Bapak could only understand business from the perspective of a spiritually-directed man with no business experience. He grew up in the Dutch East Indies during the colonial period when the only sizable businesses he would have heard about were those that exploited local resources: mining, logging, and agricultural plantations.)

We have tended in the past to avoid doing business in the ordinary way. When we are considering whether or not to support a specific project, we would do much better if those who lead it have had experience starting up a business in that field. They could be Subud members, but, if the skills needed cannot be found among “our own”, qualified people must be found elsewhere.

If we see a business venture as a ship that will bring us to our desired destination (where the future of Subud will be assured), we must first prepare a dock from which it can be launched. I suggest that the “dock” we need to build is a “business creation business” (BCB) that would be set up by experienced professionals. The BCB must be established in a first-world country where modern business practices are followed: a country with a reputation for transparent dealing and with strong regulations in place that govern financial services. It would eventually become a listed company, with its shares trading on a recognized stock exchange so that those who invest can sell their shares whenever they want. The BCB would manage a fund that invests in new projects. It does not have to invest ONLY in projects *continued >*

*A way for  
the many  
to support  
the efforts of  
the few*



proposed by Subud members. After all, the goal is to generate revenue for the social projects that will ensure Subud's survival. If the BCB finds a great opportunity in "the outside world", why not invest? (We may want to see at least 50% of the BCB investments being made in projects developed by Subud members.)

### How will the BCB decide which proposed projects should be supported?

The BCB must evaluate the potential and judge the soundness of any proposed business project, considering the logic of the project and how well prepared are those who will lead it. In addition to a technical specialist, the project evaluation team will include marketing and business development specialists who each understand the sector in which the proposed venture will operate. The BCB may have to "go outside" to find appropriate subject-matter specialists.

The proposed project must also satisfy the specific criteria we establish as a shared vision. We may, for instance, want to see a business:

- that is in a sector where there are significant opportunities
- that will have competitive advantages, so that it will be a strong competitor in its chosen market and will be at least as profitable as are other businesses in its sector
- that will maintain a high level of integrity and fair dealing with all, including shareholders, employees, customers, and supplier
- whose products or services do good in the world (help people in their lives), or, at the very least, the business does not exploit the weaknesses of its customers
- that does no harm to people or the environment
- that "gives back" to the community where it is located
- that uses a portion of its profits to do good works (company-sponsored projects)
- that provides work opportunities for a number of Subud members (a large number is better), not just family members, and that treats all its employees well
- that provides significant funds on a regular basis to the Subud organization and to Susila Dharma

Are there other important objectives? Let's not forget any. The Analytic Hierarchy Process can help us rank the criteria in terms of importance.

The ideas here have been presented in summary form. I would welcome communication from those who want to learn more about the very particular kind of BCB that I am proposing. And please share your own perspective. Let's begin a conversation.

## Latihan for someone who has died

*An experience from Léonard Lassalle's book Source of Life...*

Poland had just liberated herself from the Russian grip of oppression, and transport was difficult to organise, so we decided to hire a local taxi man who not only would drive us from place to place, but could also be our interpreter.

We met Kasimir and his old Mercedes the next day. We instantly liked him and negotiated a price for our whole stay in Poland; he would drive us to all the places we needed to visit and translate for us when necessary.

Kasimir was in his late 40s. His powerful body and low voice gave one a protective feeling, and we soon found out that he was a most gentle and understanding man. His English was good and enabled us to communicate freely. He rapidly understood about Subud, the latihan and the aim of our trip.

In Warsaw, it was difficult to find a place big enough to do a group latihan. A member named Natasha, who lived on the periphery of the large city, proposed that we use her attic flat. Ryszard, who was at the time chair of Subud Poland, joined our party. We parked the car on the side of a bypass and walked across to a tall dark reddish/grey brick building and gathered around the entrance while Natasha looked for her keys.

A large bang, which sounded like a major car crash, was heard further up the road, and Kasimir departed to investigate while we went up to the fifth floor to have our meeting and latihan. The attic flat was rather smaller than we had anticipated. Ryszard and I were shown into a dusty attic storage place while the eight women would use the single room for their latihan.

The very steep pitch of the roof did not give us more than a metre of room before our heads hit the spider-webbed supporting beams. We removed a few old dusty cardboard boxes to give ourselves a little more space, and as I bent down my eyes were surprised to notice an old German army *continued >*



*Léonard and Melinda Lassalle.*

“Would you like the latihan to unleash your soul?”

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soldier's uniform and helmet that lay there forgotten, probably since World War II.

I looked at Ryszard and we both exchanged slightly wry smiles, then we stood until we had complete inner quiet, and the latihan started. The first thing I noticed was the sound of the street that seemed to echo under the slate tiles of the roof, and the strange musty smell of the place. I went deeper into my being and songs started to flow out of my chest. They sounded like Nordic ancient melodies that took me way up into a refined sphere of sensitivity. This lasted for some time, until I felt as if somebody was demanding my attention.

I slowly opened my inner eyes to see, as if I was looking down through the roof of our attic, a young fair-headed man, naked, his head down, looking completely lost. He was sitting on the railings of the dual carriageway, resting his elbows on his knees.

Surprised, I looked further up the road and saw his young broken body lying across the road in a pool of blood; it was being covered up with a thick grey blanket by three paramedics. The remains of his dismantled motorbike lay unattended.

I was now standing next to the young man and asked softly for his name. "Janusz Petrovsky. What do I do now? My body is all broken, finished," he answered as he raised his handsome head and looked at me with large, pale blue eyes.

As I saw his face, I grasped his whole background, what kind of person he was, his parents and their strong attachment to their only son, an architecture student at the University. Also his whole inner nature was revealed to me and I felt love towards him and his family.

"Would you like to start the latihan to help unleash your soul so that you can continue freely on your spiritual way?" I said encouragingly.

"Yes, I would," replied Janusz.

I was back in the attic; Ryszard's latihan had gone deep and quiet, and I called him gently by his name. He gave me a questioning look, slightly surprised as it is not usual to stop someone in their latihan.

"Would it be okay for you to join me in starting the latihan with a young man who just died in a car accident down below?" Ryszard gave me a smile and nodded in agreement. I said the usual few words of introduction before starting the latihan and we were off.

The latihan lasted a good 20 minutes. It was powerful, and at one time I felt a musical wave of fine vibrations rising through my body and up into the heavens: I knew that our young friend had started his new journey. Slowly, our spiritual practice quieted down to come to a finish. Close to my soul I looked down as if to confirm that Janusz had left the railings, and only his broken unanimated body still remained on the road with crowds of people who had gathered around it.

After this unusual latihan, Ryszard and I felt extremely light and happy and left the dark attic cupboard to join the women for tea and chocolate cake in the attic flat. When our taxi driver Kasimir reported back about the accident, he confirmed exactly what I had seen while doing the latihan.

This is taken from Leonard Lassalle's just published book "Source of Life". For an enthusiastic review of this book see Marcus Bolt's response to it in the September 2012 issue of Subud Voice. For your copy of the book, go to:

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/léonard-lassalle/source-of-life/paperback/product-20336644.html>

[www.subudbooks.com](http://www.subudbooks.com) (or any good bookstore.)

*Source of Life* paperback 282 pages: £12.00 plus postage ISBN: 978-1-291-03427-1

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## Leukemia – A gift from God...

*This story first appeared in Subud News in Sept/Oct 1986. However, it seems worth republishing now as it is one of the best accounts of an apparently spontaneous healing arising out of the latihan and Melinda is still with us today almost 20 years later.*

*We emphasize of course that such experiences are not necessarily common or to be expected and that the founder of Subud, Muhammad Subuh, always stressed that physical healing was not the purpose of the latihan. Melinda Lassalle (France) writes...*

Illness, for me, is a gift from God.

Once upon a time; everything in my life had been building up on top of me. I was a helper, on call from Subud people. But tiredness and aching in all my body seemed ever present, and constant nausea with sharp pains bothered me.

The continuous pressure of demands from my family and others was largely my own fault, because I could never say no. Took on too much and things got out of hand, so that eventually I began to pray for it all to stop. I simply could not stop it for myself, nor could my very caring and loving husband.

We had seven children and I had developed hernias during my last pregnancies. I had an operation for hernias and then it all had to stop. During the operation the doctor noticed the state of my blood and had it examined. It was leukemia.

*continued >*

Still dopey from the operation I was taken to a clinic, a big country estate deep in the fields, with only the sound of cows and pheasants.

The days passed, I did nothing and wanted less. I slept and slept, and drifted, and slept some more.

Sometimes I ate a little fruit or salad. Days turned into weeks and I never wanted anything, just to be alone, and sleep. Leonard, my husband, came, and went again, and still I wanted nothing and missed nothing.

I seemed to be in a sort of in-between place, hovering, half here, half there, half nowhere. I couldn't even understand why I didn't really want to go back home to my very loving family and friends. I wanted nothing, though. I just took what the staff told me and, uncaring, did what they wanted.

### Surrounded by Flames

After several weeks in this utterly passive state I was lying one day on a massage table, alone, the masseur having left the room for a while. Quietly, and without surprise, I could see little flames all around the table. I was surrounded by them. I wasn't afraid, just gently amazed.

I watched. They grew, and grew yellow, and orange, then they grew bigger and bigger, till they were huge and red and white and on all sides of me — yet overhead I saw brilliant purples and blues.

I was even more amazed when I heard a very deep, strong voice coming from somewhere. It said: 'May the disease in Melinda's blood be cleansed', and slowly then, the fire and the flames died down and I felt the latihan surge through my body. I was singing by then — louder and louder. I sang on and on.

And after what seemed like a long time it stopped by itself. I got up, went back to my room and fell asleep.

Next morning I awoke feeling radiant and clear, as if something had totally changed. I was full of life: I wanted to live! When I saw my doctor a few hours later and told him that, he laughed and said I had taken an awfully long time to decide to live. But now that I had, or perhaps that the decision had been made for me, he could begin to strengthen my by now terribly weak body.

He understood, and I felt really good for the first time for I don't know how many years. Everyone in the clinic noticed that something had changed, and now, when I got the full treatment of diet, massage, exercise and so on, I could feel it all helping me and making me better.

I went home; as the doctor knew that I was longing to go back, he didn't try to stop me, although I was terribly thin, weak and vulnerable to everything and everyone who came near me. I felt transparent, terribly sensitive but oh, so very much alive.

I knew now I would live. I promised the doctor that at home I would follow his very strict routine for a year: exercises, hot and cold baths, two rests a day, be in bed by nine and strict diet.

The diet was confirmed by Bapak when I asked him. It was just fruit and raw vegetables and a little fish – nothing much else – and no meat, alcohol, coffee or even tea. It wasn't an easy time to arrange everything but our seven children were all marvelous, and friends were kind and helpful. Leonard managed to be in five places at one time, keeping everything going in his business, and slowly I got stronger in my body.

I felt very clear and light, and so happy all the time! So many things had dropped away from me, experiences, my life when I was younger, and so many questions; anxieties and guilt simply were not there any longer. I felt as if I had been relieved of a tremendous burden; I felt incredibly free.

And for this I have to thank my illness, and to thank God for it, for leukemia has been a blessing and a way of reaching some other place in myself, from which to live. ●

“ May the disease in Melinda's blood be cleansed ”

## What if God was one of us?

*Establishing a personal relationship with God, a dialogue...*

### A theological speculation...

ILAINA: Harris I just found this in one of Bapak's talks.

“Bapak has received that Subud can go on and progress for approximately a thousand years, yes, more than a thousand years. This is possible, provided you are really able to receive the guidance of Almighty God and put it into practice.”

HARRIS: Somewhere else he says 800 years... I guess these things are constantly subject to revision.

ILAINA: Certainly it's better not to take these *continued* >



*God and Adam reach out to each other in Michelangelo's painting of the creation.*



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quotes too literally, but I think they do provide some encouragement and reassurance.

HARRIS: I seem to recall that at one point he suggested he might live to 107

ILAINA: Even in heaven they presumably change the dates!

HARRIS: I wonder... Does God also revise his predictions? Is it all an unfolding mystery to Him too? Does He like to keep himself partly in a state of unknowing and suspense. Like it would be too boring if He actually knew EVERYTHING in advance. Some element of mystery and surprise is necessary to maintain his interest in the whole thing? He has built the unexpected, even for Himself, into the whole arrangement.

Perhaps God is also making the thing up as He goes along? Perhaps it is all a great unfolding to Him too?.

ILAINA: You may be right, I like to think so! It makes sense that He should be flexible. Tries something once, sees it isn't working so tries something else...

Maybe we as mankind are not doing too well... so He may discard us after a few last chances like Subud perhaps. .

HARRIS: Ha ha... I hope I don't get discarded... broken and chucked in the bin like a pot or figurine that turned out bad, that was ugly and misshapen, and didn't work and didn't fulfil any useful function.

In what we have been talking about I am reminded of the pop song of a few years ago "What if God was one of us?" by Joan Osborne. Although the "theology" of the song is "untraditional", imagining a God still in the process of transformation, I know that an Anglican minister friend of mine took it as a tremendously good thing that any heartfelt reference to God should occur in the context of pop music. Whatever else, people who heard the song were reminded for a moment of the possibility of God, however they conceived him.

Perhaps some people think it disrespectful or audacious to speculate about God in a contemporary way, but I am reminded of the Old Testament prophets who constantly questioned God and even made incessant demands upon him. Perhaps this is part of the process of establishing a personal relationship with him. Perhaps he likes us to speak to him from our hearts, however imperfect they may be.

Here is Joan Osborne's song on Youtube [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USR3bX\\_PtU4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USR3bX_PtU4)

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## They Were There

*Rohana Darlington reviews Ilaina Lennard's book The Best of Subud Voice 1: They Were There...*

As someone who's been in Subud for 50 years – opened when I was 18 – I personally met many of the people who have contributed to this book, and it was with a strange sense of going down memory lane that I began to reflect on a lifetime of latihan.

The book opens with a history of Ilaina's experiences as editor of Subud Voice and the difficulties with software and computers she had to contend with as the IT revolution gathered pace.

She then records some moving accounts about Bapak's birth and death before describing how Subud began to spread. Re-reading about Husein Rofe, living in Hong Kong in 1955, I was reminded that I was a 12 year old schoolgirl also living in Hong Kong very near Husein at the time, (although I never met him then), little suspecting how my own life would later be affected by his decision to agree to bring the latihan to the West.

And I was also reminded of the extraordinary Meredith (later Roland) Starr who invited Husein to Cyprus en route to England. I first met Roland at a Subud Congress in Swanwick, Derbyshire; he was a complete stranger and I had no idea then that he would become one of the most significant figures in the history of Subud. I was a shy teenage Subud ingénue with no boyfriend at the time and when I was introduced to him I was astonished when he stared at me with his piercing blue eyes and suddenly began to tell me who I would marry! His prediction came true and Mashud and I have now been married for 44 years.

Again, reading about the early days of Subud in London reminded me of my opening at the Royal Ballet School in Colet Gardens in 1962. This Subud group was founded by seven of the people who originally invited Bapak to England to see if people with no Gurdjieff experience could also receive the latihan. They didn't believe in letting members read any Subud publications either, but were pleased to learn that without my being a student of Gurdjieff (who I'd never heard of at the time) the latihan did actually work in me so strongly I was only allowed to come once a week at first. Later I met Madam 'K', Ouspensky's secretary who was also a member of this group, but to me she just seemed like a rather intimidating ancient aristocratic Russian lady.

A  
fascinating  
and thought-  
provoking  
book...

The book continues with other interesting sections, with contributions from Harlinah Longcroft, our Subud historian, Hartley Ramsay, Lawrence Barter and Muftiah Arnold, all of whom I met later on. I found the other memories of Subud in countries around the world very interesting but did not get to know any of these people. I did however have some beautiful personal experiences with Bapak and Ibu Siti Sumari which are precious to me.

I found one of the most interesting parts of the book was Chapter 25 which records the experience of K. Mangoendjaja, an Indonesian helper, of his house burning down. He received in latihan three days before this happened that he would soon *continued >*



meet with a disastrous event but afterwards he was anguished by the question of why should this happen to him. Bapak told him it was in the line of his life, which he could not prevent, but that he should not despair as it was needed for his soul to develop a deeper level of surrender and faith. This is a most telling comment on the part that destiny and fate can play in all our lives. How much freedom do we really have? Or, as the ancient Greeks wondered: ‘Are even our thoughts fated?’

Finally, the chapters on the ups and down of Subud enterprises and descriptions of past World Congresses will be of interest to new members who may not appreciate the ordeals that Subud pioneers have had to experience on their spiritual journeys. But, to quote Bapak, on page 151: ‘You really have to have courage. Don’t imagine you can just take one or two steps and you will succeed. Sometimes you have to fail five or six times in a row, but just keep going. You really face what it is you have to face with faith in Almighty God, as Bapak has done.’

All in all, a fascinating and thought-provoking book.

#### **HOW TO ORDER ‘THEY WERE THERE – The Best of Subud Voice Volume 1’**

1. Go to [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)
2. In ‘search’, select ‘books’ and type “The Best of Subud Voice”

Or as a special offer to UK members, a single copy of the book can be ordered at a cost of £12.50 (including postage). Add £11.50 (also includes postage) for each additional copy. Contact Ilaine at [ilaine.l@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ilaine.l@blueyonder.co.uk) (note: email address Ilaine not Ilaina, for more info on this special offer.

## Remembering Dorothy Gilbert: 19th. December, 1915 – 22nd September, 2012

*Mary Thomson writes – and a few thoughts by other Canterbury group members...*

On Friday, 12th October a small gathering joined together at Hastings Crematorium to say a final farewell to Dorothy – or Dot as we all knew her.

The last months of her life were spent in a Nursing Home in Bexhill where she died. Until 2007, when she had finally to surrender to the severe asthma and chest weakness to which she had long been prone, Dot spent her life in Ashford where she was born. She was tough and cycled everywhere she could whatever the weather. Her bike was her main transport right into her eighties. More remarkable was her regular participation in the Christmas Day sea swim in Hythe which she also managed into her eighties.

Probably only older Subud members will remember Dorothy. She was one of the very first members of Subud in Britain having been opened by Mariam Kibble who had received the contact from Husein Rofé in Cyprus before Bapak came to Coombe Springs in 1957. So Dorothy was a member of our Canterbury Subud group for 56 years, albeit an isolated member for the final five years of her life. Her husband, Arthur, also joined Subud but he died in 1969, leaving Dorothy to live out a long widowhood.

For many years Dot worked for Mr. Headley of Ashford Printers who also did a lot of publishing for SPI and other Subud Publications. Mr. Headley was very proud of Dot and entrusted to her the turnover to computer of all their business. It was her life job which she ended before she retired. The Headley family, including Mr. Headley’s aging mother, attended her cremation service and spoke of her with great affection recounting that she had always had a mind of her own but was regarded with warmth by all who worked with her. After retiring she often returned to see her old work companions and to join in their Christmas carol singing.

She was a huge reader accumulating books from a range of sources. She had a special penchant for investigating anything esoteric and wanted to explore possibilities and find others’ paths to truth. Conversations with her were always stimulating and interesting and on discovering a new piece of information her eyes would sparkle with delight.

Another great love of hers was her large back garden. She cultivated it producing vegetables, fruit and flowers – the latter were her special delight. At our last visit to her in her Nursing Home we took a white orchid. Weak as she was she kept trying to reach out and touch it, saying “beautiful” .

Whatever her ventures into other domains of thought, Dot was always faithful to Subud. There was no group in Ashford and so she would cycle into town, put her bike onto the Canterbury train and ride to the latihan venue arriving breathless in time for latihan. She hardly ever missed.

A few weeks after last Christmas two of us received a message from Dorothy. It was written on a scrap of paper in a barely decipherable hand so shaky had she become. There were very few words, but the one that *continued >*



*Dorothy Gilbert*

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was clear was SUBUD. Shortly before she died we managed to get to Bexhill to visit her. She was obviously close to death, a mere shadow of the vigorous Dot we had known. Her hearing was almost completely gone and she could hardly talk, but at the word latihan she showed recognition and held out her arms. We held her for a while and tried to surround her with quiet, knowing that she would very soon proceed to the latihan of the next life.

Those of us in our group who knew her feel sad that her earthly persona has finally gone from us, but we rejoice that she has now been released into the true Dorothy. We send our love to her wherever she now is. ●

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## Tributes to Luqman McKingley

17 June 1944 - 3 October 2012

Luqman McKingley has passed on. He had recently been diagnosed with Myasthenia Gravis and had been in and out of the hospital with it. They were getting ready to again take him to the hospital when he stopped breathing. Luqman died on October 3rd, 2012, in Jakarta, at 11:25 in the morning. He was buried at midday on the following Friday near Bapak at Suka Mulia

### *Latifah Taormina writes...*

Ever creative, ever visionary, ever proclaiming the miracle of the latihan, ever devoted to Bapak.

A multi-talented creative visionary, Luqman was perhaps most passionate about getting the words of Bapak and Ibu out to others - in real time - and in presenting those talks and events with the elegance and respect he felt they deserved.

Subud World, All of Mankind, Adam and His Children, The Light of Christ, Journey Beyond the Stars, Zone One News, and the whole practice of getting the podium translations out to members in addition to final translations of talks. Thank you, Luqman.

32 Erskine Street in Sydney, Adi Puri at Wisma Subud, and now Suka Bahkti where Subud brothers and sisters can be interred adjacent to Suka Mulia. Thank you, Luqman.

Luqman, who pioneered animation in Indonesia with Anima Indah, who envisioned much of the renewal of Darling Harbor in Sydney with Creative Design and Technology (CDT), who dreamed of eco-tourism in the canopies of the jungles of Kalimantan back in the 80s, who imagined themed hotels and interactive television shows before they happened, who was always ahead of the pack, dreaming of what was coming next.

I first met Luqman in Skymont when Bapak visited. But I didn't really get to know him, or his lovely wife Muryati, until 1972 during a Bapak visit to San Francisco - just before they were married. That's when I also got to know the Luqman who loved to tell stories, assume silly voices, and keep us all laughing. We connected again in Cilandak, where we became like family and I became part of Anima Indah.

Still later, I was privileged to work with Luqman transcribing tapes of talks for All of Mankind and later still at CDT in Sydney to do more transcribing for the Zone One News. Perhaps best of all, at CDT, I got to be part of the team putting together Journey to the Stars and the book that chronicled Bapak's last days - and last talks - Remembrance.

Luqman wrote a long inscription to me in my copy of Journey. Here is one paragraph that now I say back to him, with love and thanks:

"I pray that you will be granted your own journey home to heaven beyond the stars - to a place truly commensurate with the most wondrous and good things you have done in your life and have felt and received in your worship of God and your dedication to Eyang (Bapak) and Subud."

Thank you, Luqman Lateef Keele McKingley, for working so hard to deliver on the promise you made to God. May God bless you and your family as we all continue to enjoy your many gifts to us all:

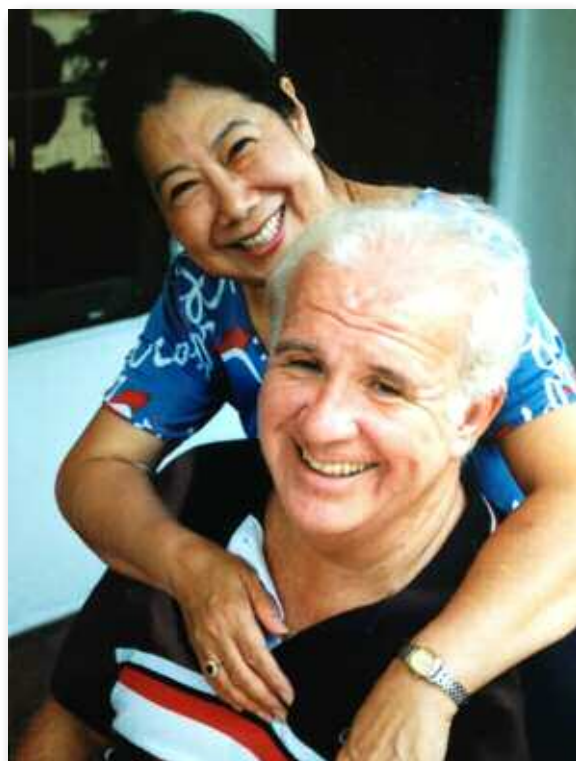
I enclose the picture he sent on the occasion of Muriyati's 1000th day (above). A lovely picture of the two of them.

As Luqman might have said, Let us pray now for Luqman's soul: that God will forgive Luqman for all his sins and mistakes and reward him for his many good deeds and give him a noble home and task in the Hereafter.

And may God bless and keep his family: Sahlan, Mahrus and Nuraini; Elia, Agnes, Emmaline, Harlan and Rohana.

### *Rohana Fraval remembers...*

I always remember Luqman as a kind and caring person. That was the first impression I had of him in Cilandak in 1969. When he heard that two young people had arrived for Ramadan from England and were both ill *continued >*



*Luqman and Muryati McKingley.  
(Photo supplied by Latifah Taormina, SICA Chair)*



languishing in bed he came to visit and cheer us up.

He spoke very gently and told us he was a documentary film maker from the States. What struck me most was his shocking mop of grey hair. He was very young and thin.

Later on, he arrived in Egham and took up a house nearby. He was going to get involved with Anugraha. Between our house in Egham and later moving to Windsor, he visited regularly, sometimes with his laundry. One instance that is vividly etched in my memory was Luqman seated next to my husband and suddenly asking me if I could see the huge benevolent being sitting behind him. I was startled to say the least. Maybe he could see it, I could not.

There were several stories about Luqman. My experience with him has always been affectionate. As the years rolled by, we decided to come to Australia. It was at a time when all of us were going to Indonesia. Our flight from Melbourne had to connect with Sydney. As we walked the long corridor to the departure gate, I saw Luqman for the first time in maybe fifteen years in Australia walking with his retinue of people following.

I called out to him. He had put on a great deal of weight but could still be easily recognizable. Much to the astonishment of his retinue, he turned around and met me half way with a great big bear hug - his warmth and affection had not changed.

Luqman had a very generous heart. When I was Susila Dharma Chairlady for Australia, I wrote and asked for donations for a Subud youth who had died tragically. I immediately received a large cheque towards the funeral. That just sums up the enigma that Luqman was.

I shall always hold him in my heart with love and warmth. I pray Almighty God rewards him for his good deeds and forgives him his misdemeanours. May he be reunited in joy with his beloved wife Muriyati. ●

Rest in peace, dear Luqman.

## Straight the line of duty

*Harris Smart writes...*

Another of Subud's "larger than life" characters has moved on.

I knew Luqman best during the time in the 1980s when he lived in Sydney and was one of the drivers behind Project Sunrise, that extraordinary visionary project which Bapak once said "had its finger on the nerve of Sydney" and has in fact transformed that city.

That was an extraordinary time. It was a moment when Subud became extremely well known in Sydney and many powerful and influential people were drawn to it. Ramdan Simpson originated the project, he provided the intention, but it was Luqman who provided the vision.

Luqman was one of the most multi-talented individuals I have ever met. He could operate in the world of business but he also had a dazzling array of artistic talents. He could write, he could draw, he could weave extraordinary visions. He was a most engaging personality.

To work in Project Sunrise, and later in Luqman's company CDT (Creative Design and Technology) was a very great privilege. It was a unique and extraordinary experience. It brought together an extremely creative group of people – writers, artists, architects - some of whom were in Subud and some who were not.

### Interpreting Dreams

Luqman had an ability to interpret dreams that is unmatched by anyone I have ever met. This was one of the unique features of working at Project Sunrise and CDT. You could come in in the morning and go up to your boss and ask him if he could interpret the dream you had last night. And he would. And he did.

Luqman wove around him an extended "family". In Sydney during the CDT days it consisted of about 26 people. Some young - some like me, older.

I remember in particular one Christmas Eve when we all gathered in the flat of Luqman, Muryati and Sachlan in Sydney. 26 people brought presents for 26 people. Do the maths. That's a lot of presents. There was a huge mountain of them in the middle of the living room. The distribution of presents took from midnight to dawn, six hours.

There was always an elegance and quality about the way Luqman lived. For example, he had lived in [continued >](#)



*The Orbisphere... the heart of Luqman's visionary design for Darling Harbour.*

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Japan and had married a Japanese wife and had deeply absorbed Japanese culture. One example of this was that in his flat there was always a kimono displayed to indicate the season.

### Designing Theme Parks

During my time with CDT, we designed a series of theme parks. The trajectory of Luqman's life was a little bit like Walt Disney's. First, he set up an animation studio in Indonesia, and then he moved on to theme parks.

We designed major theme parks for Sydney, Singapore and New York and a number of other leisure and tourism projects. The projects in Sydney, Singapore and New York are works of genius. They were never built, but the documentation for them that exists is proof of their extraordinary nature. If Luqman had a fault or limitation, it could be said that his visions were greater than his capacity to fully manifest them in the material world.

The designs for Sydney, Singapore and New York are more than just a collection of theme park rides and experiences. They are deep, expansive explorations of culture. In terms of realizing the SICA ideal of bringing a new culture into the world, these theme park designs are in my opinion the closest we have yet come in Subud to this ideal.

Discovery Village, designed for Darling Harbour, is a futurist investigation of the creation of the urban community of tomorrow plugged in to all the latest communications technology.

The Singapore park, Magic Islands, is a profound exploration and gathering together of the cultures of Asia.

The New York theme park, Coney Island World, is even more extraordinary. The design was commissioned by an American black man who had made a fortune out of a chain of fried chicken shops. (It was called Kansas Fried Chicken, kind of like Colonel Sanders but especially catering to black people in black neighbourhoods.)

He had grown up near the once great Coney Island theme parks and he had a dream of re-creating one of them. He came to CDT for a design. What Luqman developed in that park was an extraordinary celebration of American popular culture, which has become the predominant popular culture in the world, beginning with its roots in the Coney Island parks.

Unfortunately, the park cost more than the Kansas Chicken man could afford and it was never built. But it is an amazing cultural document. Perhaps our single greatest SICA achievement to this date.

Luqman's later work included the design for the project Canopy as a visionary evocation of Kalimantan.

### Helping People

Luqman had many other qualities. One of these gifts was not only to bring people into Subud, but to "save" people, including some young people, who but for his intervention might have gone right over the edge of one disastrous fate or another. He drew them back into the circle of humanity and guided them towards rich, soundly-based and fulfilling lives. They know who they are.

In Subud, we value the quality of spontaneity, and Luqman had this too. He could be so funny, so amusing. He was a natural comedian and brilliant mime. He might suddenly burst into song or grab the nearest lady and waltz her around the CDT workspace. (It might have been Latifah Taormina.)

No memorial of Luqman would be complete without mentioning another of his major achievements which is his book *Journey to the Stars*. Many of us collaborated with him on this, but it is essentially his book. It is an illustrated biography of Bapak, written for children, but really it is a book for adults as well. The best biography of Bapak that exists, and it is hard to see how in some respects it will ever be surpassed.

Luqman gathered together so much information for this book that would probably have otherwise been lost. Because of his connection with Bapak's family, he was able to gather information that would otherwise almost certainly have vanished. Information that any future biographies will also rely upon.

Of course, Luqman, like all of us, had his little ways, which we all remember so well. But let us celebrate his wonderful personality and great achievements. He was very very kind and helpful to me personally. He gave me jobs at Project Sunrise and CDT. He enabled me to develop a particular aspect of my creativity so that I can now list on my CV "design of theme park experiences".

He and his partner of that time, Harris Madden, supported the publication of my first book *Sixteen Steps*. I always had a bit of an ambivalent relationship towards Luqman's extended "family", half in it and a half out of it, but he accepted me as part of the gang nevertheless.

### The Line of Duty

One night in the Sunburst Hotel I was present while Luqman worked on "rescuing one of those in danger of getting lost". (He knows who he is.) In the course of that Luqman quoted a poem. At the time I thought it was written by him, though he later told me it was by someone else (sorry, I forget who). The poem goes...

Straight the line of duty  
Curved the line of beauty  
Follow the straight line  
And the curved line will follow thee

*continued >*

*Luqman had many other qualities...*



Some of the many books and magazines Luqman produced. (Photo supplied by SICA)

I have often reflected on the profound truth contained within this poem and applied it in my own life, as well of course to Luqman's. In my own life, I sometimes err in wishing to follow the line of beauty ahead of following the line of duty. I fantasise about having a splendid car before I have made the garage.

In Luqman's case, I see that the achievements of his life were based on following the line of duty, though of course, none of us follow it perfectly. But for all his colour, exuberance, and artistry, he was ultimately attuned to the line of duty.

His achievements were based on his huge commitment to Subud and his very great veneration for Bapak. I see how much further than most of us he was along the path of spiritual realisation.

Farewell, for the moment, Luqman, and thank you. You enriched my life. Forgive me for my faults towards you, as I freely forgive you for any towards me. Companions always, I hope, in this life and the next.

## Adam and His Children

In the obituaries to Luqman McKingley included in this issue several people referred to the publications for which he was responsible. One of these is the book *Adam and His Children*, "a brief history of human life", a collection of excerpts from Bapak's talks, compiled and edited by Luqman.

Originally published in 1991, this book has perhaps slipped out of people's consciousness a little bit, and I think this is a good time to remind people of this extremely valuable book, which many people find to be an excellent companion to Bapak's book *Susila Budhi Dharma*, presenting many of the same insights in a very readable fashion.

*Luqman's introduction to the book says...*

"The word 'Adam' does not apply to a physical human being. The real meaning of the word Adam is 'the origin'. Adam was a primordial being without physical substance or form. He lived unconditionally. Without name or sex. Adam was the lights, the seed of Man, created before anything else."

In this way begins *Adam and His Children*, a unique story of the development of human life from Creation through history to the present day. Its extraordinary perspective provides remarkable answers to provocative questions...

What is the purpose of human life on Earth?

How can a human being today escape from the culture of mistakes he has inherited? Actually experience real peace and lives? What is the real function of sexual union?

Can we achieve self-awareness every moment, every pulse beat? Can we work and succeed in the world without being consumed by materialism? How can people discover their true natures and talents? What kind of schooling is needed to direct people not according to the needs of existing power structures but according to their real needs?

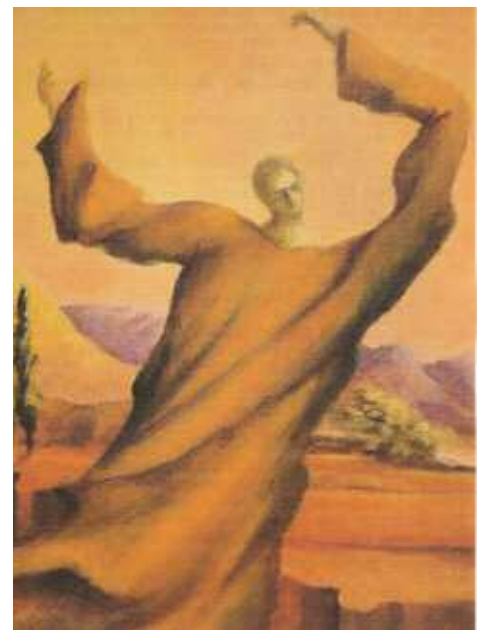
Were the ascensions of Jesus, Mohammed and other prophets real? Why can't people today see the radiance of the Holy Spirit anymore – yet they can still feel its vibration if they truly surrender?

There were Anwar and Anwas? Was Zeus originally a human being who willed himself into becoming a disembodied god or dewa? What is the difference between Heaven and Nirvana? What are ghosts?

Was there human life on earth 7 million years ago? Did civilizations higher than ours exist on Earth hundreds of thousands of years ago? What transpired when the Earth's Poles changed and cataclysm struck the planet?

The narrative explanations given by Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo in these excerpts from some of his spontaneous, unprepared talks, illuminate as they surprise.. They are, in turn, illuminated by more than 50 color and black-and-white paintings which evoke some of the inimitable character of the story told.

*Adam and His Children*, compiled by Luqman McKingley, with paintings by Midelti (Rashid Carre), Starlight Press, 1991. The book may be obtained from. [www.subudbooks.com](http://www.subudbooks.com)



Midelti illustration for *Adam and His Children*.



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# Susila Dharma AGM

*Rosanna Hille writes...*



*Greetings from SDIA's Annual General Meeting in England!*

We had a very successful meeting in Great Malvern England August 22-25 and I want to thank all who were able to come and contribute to our very productive and pleasant time together. I am sending you the English version of the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting and a document summarizing the outcomes of our time together with a list of the members who attended. Translations will follow.

Realizing the benefit of doing latihan together, one important decision we made was to try and hold a Susila Dharma latihan on the last Sunday of every month to help anchor our work in our spiritual practice. Due to the many different time zones we work in, we hope you can join us at the best time that will work for you personally.

With love and best wishes, Rosanna and the SDIA Office team

For reports on the meeting go to [www.susiladharma.org](http://www.susiladharma.org)

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## Subud and Science

*Roger Gentle writes...*

Following my article in October's Journal on the Zero Point Field and The Life Force, I have been wondering how many qualified scientists and people interested in science do we have in Subud. Would we or do we have a particular perspective on science compared to mainstream science? If so what is it and do any of us think it is worth getting together to develop this? What were Bapak's thoughts/receivings on scientific topics and can we use testing to enhance our own understanding?

If anyone is interested in this could you please email me and if there is enough interest perhaps we could have an initial meeting at next year's Subud Britain Congress.

*"Fossils will remain, but the interpretations can be overturned any day. This is something that people don't understand about science that it's not about certainty, it's not necessarily even about facts, it's about questions and the answers that you give" 2012*

Jennifer A Clack ScD FRS, Professor and Curator of Vertebrate Palaeontology, University of Cambridge

Contact Roger on: [rison@btinternet.com](mailto:rison@btinternet.com)

# Volunteer at Anisha

*Solen Lees writes...*

I was wondering if you could do us a favour? The Susila Dharma member project Anisha, in India, is requesting two volunteers for 2013, and we'd like to spread the word as far as possible to attract candidates.

Could you put something in Subud Voice? Below is a blurb you could use – but of course please feel free to edit if it's too long. I'm attaching a couple of photos you could use if this is appropriate.

Thanks in advance – let me know if you need more info!

## Want to volunteer in India?

English teacher and permaculture specialist needed in India at Susila Dharma member project, Anisha.

This summer Anisha was host to the Human Force Volunteer Camp, where one of the activities was teaching English to local schoolchildren. Not only did this prove immensely popular to children, but it highlighted a need in the community where the level of English is fairly low. Because of this experience, the project would like to recruit an English teacher to teach a summer school and pre- and after-school classes.



*Jayadi at Anisha.*

*If only this guy could learn how to be popular.*

**We need a volunteer who is available for several months in 2013, preferably from March/April to December 2013.**

The ideal candidate will have some teaching experience and experience with children, and preferably an ESL or EFL qualification and/or experience. However, more than a formal diploma, the qualities of creativity and flexibility are all-important, and the volunteer must be able to work on his/her own initiative.

Please contact Solen at [getinvolved@susiladharm.org](mailto:getinvolved@susiladharm.org) if you are interested in this opportunity and see our website for more details <http://blog.susiladharm.org/2012/09/25/want-to-teach-english-in-india/>

Another learning experience for Anisha was brought by a HF volunteer from Australia, Jayadi, a student in permaculture, who taught staff members some permaculture techniques and helped improve agricultural output while saving water! Anisha was so impressed by Jayadi that they have invited him back, and are looking for another permaculture specialist to help him. We need a volunteer with knowledge of and experience in permaculture, designing permaculture methods and implementing them, as well as coordination skills. The volunteer should be able to stay for a minimum of three months from January to March 2012. Interested?

Please contact Solen at [getinvolved@susiladharm.org](mailto:getinvolved@susiladharm.org) and see this page for more details <http://blog.susiladharm.org/2012/09/26/help-get-anisha-started-with-permaculture>



Books recently reviewed in Subud Voice – all available from [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) (except On Chance Road, available from the author, Laurence Shelley.

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*Destiny* – Three stories of Subud life. \$15

*Tom Bass Totem Maker* (with Tom Bass) – Life Story of the most important Australian sculptor of the 20th century and a profoundly spiritual man. \$30

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Contact: [harrismart@optusnet.com.au](mailto:harrismart@optusnet.com.au)

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Contact: [harrismart@optusnet.com.au](mailto:harrismart@optusnet.com.au)

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A Spanish facsimile edition usually appears a little later on the same web site.

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Send articles, photos, cartoons etc. to Harris Smart, Editor Subud Voice, email: [editor@subudvoice.net](mailto:editor@subudvoice.net)

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Submissions are invited which relate to Subud life or are from Subud members. We cannot guarantee when or if a submission sep be published. Preference will be given to articles of about 2000 words or less accompanied by a photograph, well-written in English and dealing with the activities of Subud members, or expressing a Subud member's perspective on a subject.

Articles should be written in such a way that they are intelligible and interesting to both Subud members and the general public. Sometimes this sep mean providing an explanatory introduction or notes for the non-Subud reader

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