



DEMOCRACY: Freedom to become

The Editor writes... It has always been my hope that Subud Voice would report not only on Subud activities and experiences, but would also from time to time have articles about the great issues of the world from a Subud perspective.

Therefore, I am very pleased to include this article by Lailah Nicoletta Armstrong, who heads up ICDP (The International Child Development Program), which has now been established in many countries all around the world, helping to improve relationships between children and their carers.

While no consensus exists on how to define democracy, equality and freedom have both been identified as important characteristics of democracy since ancient times. The most common form of modern democracy is representative democracy in which the voting public takes part in elections.

If ideal democracy could be achieved, it would mean that all have an equal say in the decisions that affect them. Usually, this includes equal (and more or less direct) participation in the proposal, development and passage of legislation into law.

The democratic principle has also been defined by some, including the German American political theorist Hannah Arendt, as "the freedom to call something into being which did not exist before, which was not given... and which therefore, strictly speaking, could not be known."

This type of freedom, which is connected to human capacity to begin anew, sees democracy as "not only a political system but an ideal, an aspiration, really, intimately connected to and dependent upon a picture of what it is to be human – of what it is a human should be to be fully human".

Democracy was invented by the Greeks in the middle of the 5th century and the word coined from 'dêmos' – people and 'kratos' – power. It was a political system in some Greek city-states, notably Athens. I will refer to Plato in an effort to examine the deeper meaning of democracy.

Plato's best known and most comprehensive work is the Republic. Plato had no faith in the rule of the rich, nor any confidence in the ability of ordinary citizens to run a city like Athens.

The rich, as he saw, had mostly their special interests in mind, and during the time of their short-lived regimes they had shown to what length they could go to defend the advantages of the few against the majority of ordinary people.

But the rule by the many was no remedy for the ills *cont >*



Lailah Nicoletta Armstrong.

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of oligarchy, according to Plato, because ordinary people were too easily swayed by the emotional and deceptive rhetoric of ambitious politicians.

It was the demos, after all, the majority of ordinary people, who time and again had supported the disastrous campaigns of the Peloponnesian War by their votes, who had condoned numerous atrocities and breaches of the law, and who were also responsible for the questionable trial and execution of Socrates.

Athenian politics, in other words, seemed an irremediably corrupted affair, and all a rational person could do was to attend to personal matters, and to pursue wisdom in the privacy of one's solitude and a small circle of friends.

(It is obviously not a foregone conclusion that whatever the majority decides is also the best – or even acceptable. The democratic election of a leader who plans to replace a capitalist democracy with a fascist warfare state, for example, is a case in point. Hitler, it is worth remembering, was elected by a democratic vote.)

According to Plato a just society must be under the control of those who are “lovers of wisdom”. This is the core concept of Plato's so-called “philosopher kings.” Since neither the demos nor ordinary politicians can be expected to acquire this sort of competence, it will have to be the committee of philosopher kings that guarantees justice, public welfare, and peace.

"Until philosophers are kings, or the kings and princes of this world have the spirit and power of philosophy, ... cities will never have rest from their evils," Plato suggests in the Republic.

In contrast to many modern theoreticians, Plato did not think that a “neutral” or “value-free” description of the world and human affairs is possible, let alone desirable. The ability to deal with valuations, therefore lays the foundation for a person's ability to give sufficient reasons for living a certain kind of life.

Plato travelled around the ancient world, particularly Egypt and was inspired by the teachings of the “mystery schools” about the world within the world. Plato's Allegory of the Cave describes the ascent out of the cave and into the light which is not easy and it requires a persistence and willingness to change, to die to the world of shadows, leaving behind trivial values for the enlightened values of the real world.

The sun in Plato's allegory stands for the idea of becoming real or living a life that is real in accordance with the ultimate real value of "the Good." To make any sense of things one needs to know something about ultimate purposes and values, and about the ways in which important matters are distinguished from trivial ones.

Democracy is not simply putting into practice the concept that “all are equal and have a right to a say”, rather it is a way of living that creates favorable conditions for others to express their compassionate and altruistic spirit in relation to others.

The original inspiration for creating ICDP came from the belief that it is possible to re-ignite empathic feelings and human compassion in relation to others. All charities by definition have a currency in kind – shelter, money, food, clothing, schooling, medical help etc.

In ICDP, the currency is reactivating human care and empathic communication, from the initiators of ICDP, from those who operate it, and from those in charge of the care for children.

ICDP is an NGO with a “product” - The product is the ICDP human sensitization programme and our “market” is represented by partner organizations and networks working for the benefit of families and children, particularly vulnerable ones.

Our fundamental aim is to enable children, particularly vulnerable ones, to achieve their full human [cont >](#)

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Expressing a
compassionate
and altruistic
spirit in relation
to others
”



ICDP is now being applied creatively in many areas. For example, in sport in the relationship between children and their coaches.

potential through relationships with empathic caregivers; therefore our work is about enabling care-givers to achieve those empathic relationships with the children in their care.

With our partner organizations we share the common interest and determination to contribute to human development by implementing the ICDP programme for the benefit of children and caregivers.

Karsten Hundeide, the founder of ICDP, urged us to keep the “human flame alive” in all areas of our work. Democracy in ICDP can be achieved if we manage to do just that.

The Basis of ICDP

Professor Karsten Hundeide, founder of ICDP, wrote... ICDP is based on the idea that human beings are by nature social, and that also means that we, as human beings, are particularly vulnerable in our social relationships because that is the domain of our suffering and our happiness.

So when we are deprived of normal human contact, there is suffering and loss, as we can see in institutionalized children. This is where ICDP comes in to restore and revive normal human caring interaction.

And this does not only apply to care for babies and young children, it applies at all levels of life from babies to youth, adults and elderly - we are all living in relationships with each other, and the quality of these relationships decides how we feel, cope and develop. Therefore ICDP is in principle applicable at all these levels...



ICDP practitioners using puppetry to reach children and their carers in an entertaining way.

What's happening in Portland?

Fayra Teeters, Subud Portland Chairperson, talks about activities and renovations...

Part of what makes Subud Portland so active and culturally vibrant is that my theatre, Masque Alfresco, is headquartered at the Portland Subud House. We are into our 12th year of providing Summer Park Tours, bringing updated versions of commedia dell'arte plays to parks throughout greater Portland.

The plays are free to the general public, family friendly, and multi-generational with contemporary references, celebrity slams and political jokes, yet they retain the charm of commedia traditions: slapstick beatings, and colorful period costumes.

We built the theatre on the SICA principles of bringing the latihan into our artistic endeavors and sharing all donations and grant funding equally with the cast. I write all of the grants. Over the past 12 years Masque Alfresco has received grants from SICA-USA, Regional Arts & Culture Council, the Macy's Foundation and several other public and government art entities.

These past few years Masque Alfresco started giving back to Subud by donating (certain) proceeds to Susila Dharma; plus our Christmas Carol raised \$1200 for SICA-USA.

When Lillian Shulman, Muhammad Subuh Foundation (MSF) Administrator and member of the Portland group, told me about the MSF Grant Program, we formed a grant-writing committee.

Although I wrote the grant, the committee had the daunting task of rounding up all of the support documents and construction bids to support our case that the renovations to our 90-year-old building were imminent and necessary to maintain our lovely Subud House as a flagship of the Subud Pacific Northwest properties. Subud Portland was awarded a Grant of \$10,000 to renovate, expand, and restore our historical, yet sagging, Subud House. Visit www.subudportland.org and read Fayra's complete piece.



“Bringing plays to parks throughout Portland”

Honours for a sculptor

Ifrida Shragen, Canada SICA Rep, writes...

Rusdi Genest, long time Subud member of Montreal, Quebec (50 years) was inducted into the very prestigious Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (RCA) this June 2013.

This Society was established by Queen Victoria of England in 1880, has 700 plus Canadian artist members of renown (deceased and living). Each proposed member must be presented by five other RCA members, and his/her portfolio is submitted to a twelve person jury of RCA members: architects, designers, sculptors, painters, etc..., to then be approved by the board of governors. It is no small feat to be admitted into the RCA!

Rusdi's biography is long and his successes are numerous. To view his art work, techniques, biography and other activities visit his web site at www.rusdigenest-sculptures.com or 'Google him' as he says. His work is in collections all over the world including the National Library and the National Archives of Canada. Here is a man with stories to tell, experiences to share, and philosophies to guide the creative endeavours of others.

Enjoy the full story and more in the SICA July e-newsletter.



“ A man with stories to tell ”

At the core

Latest video on Youtube about Kalimantan mining project, produced by Borneo Productions International. All you need to know about cores...

<http://youtu.be/31qQYzb2Lhc>

Testing in Subud

Anthony Bright-Paul writes...

There is one fundamental difficulty in testing in Subud and that is that the questions we ask we ask from our nafsu, that is to say from our instruments, from our functions, but the answers we receive we receive through our jiwat. We expect the answers to be like a telegram or an email from Almighty God in good English and well punctuated. Instead of which we receive an answer – that is if we are able to receive an answer at all – from our jiwat, maybe in the form of movements, perhaps occasionally in the form of speech, most often in a foreign language, or perhaps most rarely in a moment of blinding revelation and certainty.

All too often we ask what we should do, as if what we should do and what we can do are one and the same. Or else we ask questions that begin with the words 'How will it be if...' I well remember the late Peter Norman Kermode, who returned from California to reside his last days back in England at Wisma Mulia, agonised about returning to the USA when he had a last chance. He asked me to test with him how it would be if he returned to California. Unwillingly I stood there and went through a form of testing in a manner that was anathema to me, for the sake of my friendship of over 50 years. Even at this late stage he was incredibly indecisive. Predictably the decisions were taken for him.

Like Varindra Vittachi I had a well-known dislike of testing that involved voting. I hated to test stupid useless questions – I hate to say this – but often for stupid lazy people. How then have I become *cont* >



Tony Bright-Paul.

so enamoured, so impressed by the book “The Tests of Bapak”, which I have been reading night and day every day now for some 3 months? And again, how is it that his amazing book has not become more popular?

The reason is fairly simple. The tests for the greater part are not about how we should be but about how we are. Am I sitting on the chair or is the chair sitting on me? What a peculiar test you might say. But unless “I” exist the chair will be sitting on me. If the chair is on top of me that means I am dominated by the material forces. Actually I have tried this test many times and I think I am sitting on the chair. But that is not good enough according to Bapak. I confess I am unable to receive that clearly, but I am happy to test it. Why? Because it reminds me to feel the latihan within myself. For the time being that is good enough for me.

So Bapak tests ‘Am I eating this bread or is this bread eating me?’ Again at face value the test seems strange. Of course I am eating the bread. So now I test ‘Am I eating my porridge or is the porridge eating me?’ Ha! Ha! The point of Bapak’s tests is that they are tests of where we are, now, in the present. In every case they are revealing. They reveal unfortunately how inadequate we are, how little progress we may have made.

So sometimes I have tested as I sit alone in the evening with just my wife and she turns on a programme, which is normally of no interest to me whatsoever, and I will test silently without her knowing, with no signal, ‘Am I watching the TV or is the TV devouring me?’ Actually I did receive in that test quite well and I thoroughly enjoyed a programme to which I might have listened with only half an ear. The point is that I actually listened to this concert from the Albert Hall of a lot of hits from musicals, and I listened to it for the simple reason that I was there, feeling the latihan within me more or less the whole time. I tried this test again later when Andy Murray was playing the final of the Australian Open against the joker, Djokovic. Since I am a passionate tennis nut it is perhaps no surprise that I had less success with this test!

So we can see from the excerpts that I have already submitted to The Journal and which I believe will be published next month that Bapak constantly urges us to bring the latihan kejiwaan into our normal lives. Indeed testing where we are now is interesting and even entertaining.

Furthermore, for my part I have found that my own latihan have changed and become hugely more interesting. ‘Where is my “I” that has been touched by the Power of God?’ That is something that Ibu Rahayu suggested and I have tested again and again. Now when Bapak tests with people that they first walk normally and then walk moved by the jiwās, he also adds again and again ‘Don’t move unless you are made to move from inside.’

So this has become a sort of *idée fixe* for me – not to move on any account unless I am moved from within. Believe me, again and again I fail to receive anything, but every now and then I am moved – and it is indubitable. Then am I filled with a feeling of intense satisfaction.

Perhaps, early in the morning, I am exercising alone in my garage, looking forward to a cup of coffee, and I think I have done, maybe after ten minutes, and then I ask, ‘Is there anything more I should receive right now?’ Why did I ask? as I get thrown around with vigorous movements which belie my 83 years and the arthritis that I suffer in my feet and wrists.

Years ago when I used to go around with Sjafruddin and Asikin, before I went to California, Sjafr once said to me about Hussein Rofe that he did not want to change. I think perhaps that is the situation with a lot of us in Subud. We have this amazing gift and we have gone so far and then we have stopped, because we do not want to change. We are happy enough being just as we are, going to the Group and having some nice Subud friends.

But if we don’t change, how is Subud going to spread? It is no good just being able to give explanations or write books, as I myself have done, because the word will go simply from one *nafsu* to another. I will be speaking with my instruments to someone else’s instruments.

The variety of the tests is enormous. So Bapak tests with the owner of a restaurant, how his business is going, how far it is influenced by the latihan. He tested about people in the entertainment industry, about boxers, soldiers and footballers. I believe there is someone right here in England who was asked to test how it felt to have the legs of Pele, the legendary footballer, and he was able to feel that, to feel *cont* >

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*This has become a sort of *idée fixe* for me*
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his legs in an amazing way. Bapak will even test how does it feel to be a galloping horse. Bapak affirmed again and again that if we exercise enough – by which I understand him to mean deeply enough – all sorts of questions will be open to us. ●

Being Pele

Conrad Aldridge recalls testing at the Anugraha World Congress...

I happened to be on the front row of the audience in a tent at the Anugraha World Congress. Bapak was giving a talk about the benefits of the latihan and explaining how a person's true, God given talent can be uncovered and revealed by doing the latihan.

Bapak liked to demonstrate what he was talking about and often tested with us all, especially during his talks, to let us feel the reality or truth of his subject matter for ourselves.

"People need to experience the truth for themselves, listening to someone talking is not enough these days to convince people. It used to be enough at one time, but nowadays there has to be something more." Bapak would say.

The something more is testing. Through the miracle of testing, Subud members can know or experience things that otherwise remain buried or secret. The testing bypasses any thinking and delivers the essence of the subject matter straight to the recipients inner feelings. As I said, miraculous.

In this talk that I was attending, Bapak needed to demonstrate what he meant by a God given talent. He looked straight at me. "Come, stand up here, in front of everyone. I'd like to show you all what I mean. Just relax," he said. I stood quietly with my eyes shut. "Now, show by your latihan, how does Pele play football? Allah hu Akhbar."

Well, I saw a ball coming down to me, I was suddenly a player in a real football match, I could hear the excited crowd. My legs took off, they easily grabbed and took control of the ball. Two men from the opposing team were coming towards me. My legs took me and the ball around them, they had no chance.

There was the goal mouth in front of me, my legs were still doing their stuff and kicked the ball. The shot bent around the goalkeeper into the top right hand corner of the net. I (Pele) was amazed, the crowd were going mad.

Suddenly other players were jumping on me with enthusiastic joy.

"Finish, finish," I could hear Bapak say.

He laughed along with the audience and looked earnestly at me.

"Do you understand?" He asked "Yes, or not?"

I did understand, I really felt like Pele for those few moments. Pele was a person that I now knew had a talent programmed into his legs. He too was amazed each time he played. This was demonstrated whenever I saw him on TV by his humility and the gratitude he expressed to God for this special gift that couldn't be learnt or copied by others without the talent, no matter how much coaching they received.

I can re-visit that testing anytime I like, it's there, deep inside me together with the understanding that Bapak wanted to share with us.

Testing about War

Testing about talents is one thing, but other topics I remember very well could be of more importance to mankind. During those 30 years or so that I was so fortunate to occasionally see Bapak (1960s, 70s and 80s) there were, as now, always wars going on.

"How does it feel to be a parent caught up in a war zone, being bombed and shot at? Begin. Alla Hu Akhbar..." sometimes Bapak would let the testing go on and on and on. The women screamed, so did *cont* >



One of Pele's most amazing goals.

“ *There was the goal mouth in front of me...* ”

the men. "Go on. Go on," Bapak would say,

Testing usually delivers a quick result, in a few seconds, like a snap shot. but on these occasions Bapak would insist that the pain was experienced for longer . "Go on, Go on." he would say as the wailing members wanted to stop. "Go on." Then, eventually, after 5 minutes or 10 minutes or 15 minutes "OK, Finish, finish," Bapak would say.

The crying would stop and the members would gradually return to their normal quiet selves. "You see, brothers and sisters, did you feel it? Did you really experience how innocent people feel when they are caught up in a war? I tell you that if more people, especially the World's leaders could experience what you have experienced, then there would be far fewer wars." As I said, miraculous! ●

In the zone

An unusual happening in Subud Voice...Harris Smart writes about sport...specifically the tennis-player Maria Sharapova...

It is often said that there is too much adulation of sporting heroes. No doubt, this is true, one of the excesses of the contemporary world, but on the other hand since ancient times it has been thought that sporting people often exhibit qualities that are commendable and worthy of emulation.

Indeed, Bapak himself used sometimes referred to sporting heroes in this way. A particular favourite was the Brazilian soccer player, Pele, and many will recall the vivid testing that Bapak did with Conrad Aldridge about Pele at the Anugraha Congress. Conrad has described to me how in that testing he was completely possessed by the spirit of Pele. Nothing could stop him as he drove the ball towards the goal.

I was watching the Australian Tennis Open which is one of the big sporting events in the city of Melbourne and I want to write about one player in particular, Maria Sharapova, from a Subud point of view, because I think it has something to say about things we often talk about in Subud, such as talent. Maybe Maria has something to tell us about the development of "character", or even success in enterprise.

I was recently present at a discussion where some people were saying how boring they found women's tennis and how much more exciting were the men. It is true of course that physically the women cannot compete with the men, but tennis at the highest level is mostly a mental matter, a battle of wills and a confrontation of character, which is just as much to be seen with the women as it is with the men.

The Importance of Prihatin

This year in her progress to the semi-finals of the Australian Open, Maria Sharapova was in devastating form. She beat her first two opponents without losing a game and then lost only nine games in the next three matches. I believe this is an unprecedented accomplishment.

She is from Russia of course but now resides in the USA. She started playing tennis with her Dad when she was four and by the age of six her talent was recognized and her father was advised to take her to a tennis academy in the USA.

Many years ago Luqman McKingley asked Bapak's advice about writing a children's book. Bapak mentioned several things a children's book should teach, amongst them that it should show how the hero had to go through a period of suffering and prihatin. This is well indicated in Maria's story as it says in Wikipedia...

"With money tight, Yuri (her father) borrowed the sum that would enable him and his daughter, neither of whom could speak English, to travel to the United States, which they finally [cont >](#)



Maria Sharapova.

did in 1994. Visa restrictions prevented Sharapova's mother from joining them for two years. Arriving in Florida with savings of US\$700 Sharapova's father took various low-paying jobs, including dish-washing, to fund her lessons until she was old enough to be admitted to the academy. In 1995, she was signed by IMG, who agreed to pay the annual tuition fee of \$35,000 for Sharapova to stay at the academy, allowing her to finally enrol at the age of 9.”

In this particular case it seems that much of the prihatin was done by her Dad (perhaps prihatin undertaken for someone else, is even more effective than prihatin done for oneself), but of course the life of a champion athlete is full of prihatin - endless work and training and effort and enormous self discipline.

Her Talent

Maria won Wimbledon at the age of 17 and has won many other titles and been Number One in the world many times. A veteran of the tennis world, she is now aged 25.

I suspect that if she was in Subud, she would not often need to go to the helpers or write to Ibu Rahayu to ask “What is my talent?” It seems she has found her talent (her extraordinary “hand-eye co-ordination” was noted when she was 6).

She plays with intense focus. She fights for every point. (I contrast this attitude with my own which is more like, “Oh well I missed it that time, but it will probably come around again in a year or two”.) In her speech after defeating Venus Williams, she mentioned that she plays every match as if it were her last.

Do Not Sink!

Patricia Lacey told me that when she was opened at Coombe Springs many years ago one of the Indonesian ladies present advised her, “Do not sink!” So Patricia spent most of the latihan trying not to sink. Actually what had been intended was, “Do not think!”

Thinking can of course be extremely useful. We cannot do without it, but then there is all that useless thinking. Our worries, our fantasies, our confusion. Too much useless thinking! The disease of Hamlet which afflicts our age.

One gets the impression that when Maria plays well, she does not “sink”. She is “in the zone” where perfection just happens. One of the commentators at the tennis commented that a certain player was doomed because she had begun to “sink”. I wish I had more of Maria's determination, her focus, her discipline.

On the court, Maria has “killer instinct”, but outside the match she is extremely pleasant in her manner. After destroying Venus Williams, she made an extremely kind and graceful speech about her opponent. There was no vanity at all, no triumphant gloating, on the contrary she gave the appearance of extreme modesty. This also seems worthy of emulation.

If..

Maria's progress was abruptly brought to an end in the semi-finals when she was decisively beaten 6-2 6-2 by a foe even more implacable on the day than she herself, the Chinese player Li Na. On this occasion, poor Maria looked as lost and helpless as had those she had devastated in previous rounds.

But no doubt she will win again. And lose again. And come back again.

I believe that as the players enter the Centre Court at Wimbledon they see this quotation from Rudyard Kipling's poem “If”

“ Treat those
two imposters
just the same ”

“If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;”

An (unscheduled) visit to the Weinstein Gallery

Another great enterprise story from the recent SES World Enterprise Meeting in San Francisco...

The typical structure for SES meetings is that we work hard in the mornings, with presentations and workshops, and then in the afternoons we tour an interesting local attraction, or we visit a nearby enterprise. This makes space for the other main activity at these meetings: networking! In the past we have found that every bit as much comes out of informal networking as emerges from the presentations and workshops.

On Saturday, the second day of our SES World Enterprise Meeting in San Francisco, we were scheduled to visit Muchtar Salzmänn's Emerisa Gardens nursery, a successful business operating for many years in Santa Rosa, some 60 miles north of San Francisco.

We set out with a shuttle van and car full of SES participants, knowing that it would take us about three hours round trip and would leave us with only an hour and a quarter to tour the enterprise. Little did we know that we would get stuck in an horrendous traffic jam lining up to cross the Golden Gate Bridge. We soon realized we would have to abort the mission and create Plan B.

We ended up at the Cliff House, a most enjoyable world-famous restaurant on the ocean, on the west side of San Francisco. A wonderful time was had by all, but the best was yet to come. Luke Weinstein, who was among those of us in the van, became our Plan B when he graciously invited us to a private viewing of his famous gallery, not far from our current location. It turned out to be a revelation.

For example, the gallery owns 8,000 to 9,000 pieces of modern art. Upon entering, the visitor is quickly captivated by an astonishing collection of works by Picasso, Chagall, Dali, Miró, Calder and other legends. Our time there was an unforgettable experience.

How it all began

Articulate and absorbing, Luke's dialogue recounted his and his brother Roland's story that led to the gallery's reputation in the art world.

He began by telling us how his parents were entrepreneurs who tried, tried and tried again. This tenacity rubbed off on their two sons, who initially had gone through similar experiences. Then occurred one of those serendipitous quirks of fate. One day, at a time when they were looking for work in a gallery, Luke and Roland were walking down a street and turned left instead of right. A few steps on they found themselves staring at their now world-famous gallery in Geary St., San Francisco.

Dared by Luke, Roland walked into the gallery, brashly applied for a job -- and got it. He started work the next day. Each day he came home from the gallery his story was the same. Roland reported that he didn't know anything about sales or art, "but when I talk to a visitor to the gallery, I tell them what I think. I tell them what I feel, and somehow the client ends up walking out of the gallery with the artwork."

When six months later they were presented with [cont >](#)



Luke Weinstein during a visit to the Weinstein Gallery (which "owns 8,000 to 9,000 pieces of modern art. Upon entering, the visitor is quickly captivated by an astonishing collection of works by Picasso, Chagall, Dali, Miró, Calder and other legends. Luke's articulate and absorbing dialogue recounted his and his brother Roland's story that led to the gallery's reputation in the art world...")



Paintings by Marc Chagall. One of the important modern artists handled by the Weinstein Gallery.

the opportunity to buy the gallery, Roland loaded his credit card with \$30,000, and they were in business. It then rained solidly for two months, until Luke and Roland were at the point of desperation and down to their last few dollars. Finally, a Japanese client walked into the gallery and bought \$30,000 worth of art. That was the last time that the Weinstein Gallery was in debt.

Roland's unusual gift is his ability as conduit between the artist and the client. The two brothers are also able to recognize less well-known artists for their real talent and historical context. They researched and identified these artists, who were historically important, exposing their links to other important artists.

Luke and Roland are adept at identifying and then communicating these links, histories, and artistic merit to clients. Luke, who is the quintessential salesman in the finest sense of the word, talked extensively about his feelings about the artists whose works they have sold, how those artists fit into history, their value, his love of their art and its quality. In this way, Luke is able to be an authentic link between the artist and the client.

Of course, when a client asks Luke why (s)he should buy a particular painting, Luke is able to respond in this manner: "Well, I own the picture. If you don't buy it, I will still own it, and I wouldn't have bought it unless I wanted it and liked it. If you want it and like it, you may buy it."

Through diligent research and astute judgment, the Weinstein brothers have been able to acquire whole bodies of art at undervalued prices. They have been able to raise the market's understanding and acceptance of the real value of the works of these artists by explaining their historical context, artistic merit and position among other great abstract art of the day. They have repeated this process again and again.

For example, the gallery's third floor contains an extensive collection of the work of Rudolf Bauer, and Luke explained Bauer's incredible importance as an artist.

See: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPjDCc_XKrM The Weinstein Gallery has acquired a significant collection of his work. Luke spoke eloquently on Bauer's development and his position within the rest of the artistic community of his time, before and after the two world wars.

All in all, our tour of the Weinstein Gallery was a totally unexpected and stunning treat for the participants in the SES meeting. It was a treasure that will long be remembered by all of us who were present.

From the most recent issue of The Entrepreneur. Our thanks to Hanafi Fraval for permission to republish.



“ An authentic link between the artist and the client ”

Lambert Coles

An Exceptional and Special Person, by Ian Travers-Smith...

There are many good things about Lambert's life, and to illustrate just one of them, he was long active in promoting Subud Enterprises, starting with SED which was set up to help new ones - we met regularly in evenings mostly at Winslade House.

He was involved in our acquisition of Winslade House, Egham, and the church next to it. We converted Winslade into offices and workshop for Rofin Ltd., selling lasers, and for Sinar Agritec Ltd., which developed and marketed an award winning moisture meter for agriculture.

This all brought our small team close together.

“ A great contribution to Subud UK ”

cont >

In the early days, we each tested together our strengths and weaknesses, (and I remember thinking ‘if these guys already know all my many faults, what have I got to hide?!’).

This testing led to our making the most of each others strengths and covering each others weaknesses – how different to the normal way of working. Over the years this relationship became even closer and in all the different enterprises we were involved in, we never had a serious disagreement or had to vote to make a decision, in fact the harmony was what we really valued and enjoyed.

We went on to buy, develop and run Aurora Garden Hotel, Windsor, which was also the Windsor group’s Latihan premises for more than 20 years, also Country Kitchen Restaurant, a 200 seat whole food restaurant in the centre of Windsor, and Harwood House Nursing Home at Cookham Dean, all of which were successful.

We then got involved in Integrative healthcare, combining the best of conventional and complementary medicine. We helped to form a charity, IHT, Integrated Health Trust, also the British College of Integrative Medicine that designed and ran the first university accredited 2 year diploma course for Doctors and Nurses. Lambert contributed his good sense and support to each of these undertakings, and it was always a pleasure to work together.

Lambert made a great contribution to Subud UK. He was there when Subud arrived in the West. He became National Chairman, once acted as Bapak’s chauffer driving him at great speed through torrential rain to get to London Airport. He gave up his house to Bapak and his family on one of their visits. He played a large part in forming the Lewes Group and in acquiring their premises.

Another aspect of his life that I admired was his having created a beautiful garden at The Old Rectory, where he lived for a long time. He developed a fine collection of special plants, shrubs and trees and remembered all their Latin names. When you stayed at his house he always picked and placed lovely flowers in your room.

Latterly Lambert, Fritz Koerner, Howard Paice and I, met every 3 weeks at Howard’s house to do Latihan, discuss whatever we were working on together and have lunch. This has been going on for many years and we each valued it so much that despite the distances we practically never missed it. That we now seem to be taking it in turn to move on is no matter, for I feel it is likely we will be given the opportunity of continuing to act together and help each other and others in a different place, and I look forward to it when the time is right.

Thank you Lambert for your good company, for your clear and sensible conclusions to problems, and for just being you. Fritz once observed that Lambert was able to tell, the perhaps unpalatable truth, to others, without them taking offence - a rare gift. ●

Simon Murray, a true gentleman

Shortened from an INTRODUCTION by Jan Comley, an Independent Funeral Celebrant at the celebration for Simon’s life...

Welcome everyone. Simon’s death, at the age of 81, has left his friends with a deep sense of loss and sadness.

Simon wasn’t a traditionally religious person but he was respectful of other people’s faith and he was a good man – someone who made his own church, by leading a decent life and giving back.

And when it came to thinking about what happens after death he was deeply spiritual, with an awareness that there is something far greater than we are; something that created this universe (created life) and that perhaps death is a brief stopping point on an endless soul journey.

To believe this is to believe that the soul is a shifting whirl of qualities, ever changing and fascinating. However you imagine it, it will take on that quality and still have infinite potential left over.

So let us now remember some of those qualities of Simon’s that will never die or be forgotten, in our tribute to him.

Though modest, on his embarrassed brow nature had written “gentleman.”

In many ways Simon was old-fashioned: in his thoughts and actions he was really very traditional. *cont >*

“ He always saw
the best in
people ”

He also had, as you all know, innate business acumen – but possessed none of the bluster you may be forgiven for associating with modern businessmen. Simon was reserved: as supportive of others as he was successful, and as caring as he was commercially minded. A gentleman is a man of kind and calm demeanor, strong preserve, intellectual thinking and polite yet meaningful speak. So you see, in every sense of the word Simon was a true gentleman.

Simon was also a modest man. He never sought to be the centre of attention, but because of his largesse – his generous and caring nature – and his big, round, happy smile, he was always a presence in the room.

Born on 12th May 1932, Simon attended prep school in Weston Super Mare before going on to Gordonstoun, where he became a keen sportsman. In fact, sport (particularly Rugby and Tennis) was something he enjoyed as a spectator throughout his life, and he was very pleased to learn that Andy Murray had finally won Wimbledon!

Simon's working life began when he joined the family advertising agency in London – George Murray Advertising, which had been established by his grandfather. Simon's career was, however, interrupted: first when he served in the Army for his National Service, then secondly – and more significantly – when he volunteered as a policeman to help with the Mau Mau emergency in Kenya. This was a cause Simon wanted to contribute to because he had family in Kenya, but it was also a move that would change his life.

His future wife Elfrida had been studying in Edinburgh, but had just returned to Kenya – having been born and raised there. The very first Saturday after she got home, she was persuaded by her friends to accompany them to a hunt ball – females were in short supply, and it would make a huge difference, they told her, if she could make up the numbers. It was at the ball that she met Simon, who impressed her with the warmth of his personality and his winning smile – and the rest, as they say, is history.

At their wedding in Kenya in 1957 – after more than a year of writing letters, as Simon had to return to London – a guest was overheard to say: “Now there's a marriage that will last,” and that guest was not wrong. When Elfrida met Simon she thought he was a lovely person and that sentiment has never dimmed.

Simon had to go back to England quite soon after their marriage and Elfrida followed him, with the entire luggage, by sea – through the Suez Canal. Their first home together was a little thatched cottage (in what was then rural Stansted) so old that it was reputed to have been recorded in the Domesday Book – brimming with beams inside, and with hardly a straight wall or floor. It was chocolate box quaint!

With Simon's instinct for business, it's hardly surprising that he was interested in property. He enjoyed studying the housing market, his young family was rapidly outgrowing the cottage, and so in 1963 they moved to Toddington – to another character property.

Next came a move to just outside Winchester, to The White House, which had park-like grounds that Simon adored – he was always obsessed by spotless, well manicured lawns, and if he ever spied so much as a leaf spoiling the perfection of one, he would rush outside to pick it up! Next, the Murrays moved to Tunbridge Wells, and eventually to Willow Lodge, which was built for them.

Simon didn't really have hobbies – for him, business and pleasure were one and the same. Simon's experience in advertising, and in building relationships, proved invaluable when he became involved in the dry cleaning industry, and being a member (and one time President) of the International Dry Cleaners' Confederation saw Simon and Elfrida travel far and wide for the annual conference – to destinations such as South America and Japan, which they otherwise would never have dreamed of visiting.

Simon held very traditional values, and the fact that he was known as Mr. Murray by all the staff in the dry cleaning business reflects the affection that people held for him at work – establishing a loyalty that continues until this day, and creating a culture that rarely exists in modern businesses, but one that people really seem to still appreciate.

Simon could never resist a good deal and was constantly off doing something or meeting someone, but in all his business ventures he set great store by his traditional standards – punctuality, dignity and courtesy. And he possessed a natural empathy for others. Simon always saw the best in people (sometimes to his own detriment) and was genuinely concerned about his fellow men; understanding and compassionate, he would do whatever he could to encourage and support others.

Simon your life we honour, your departure we accept, your memory we cherish. ●

Some tributes to Simon Murray

From Philip Gladwell...

Simon was on the board of the Subud Central London Group's Amadeus Centre, until about a year ago. I think he was also involved with the Fountain Housing Trust. As for the Tunbridge Wells Group, he was instrumental in buying our premises around 1978/9 and for turning it into a profitable enterprise, (lettings) and was our lettings officer until about 2 months ago. He was also a Helper for many years. He was a twice a week latihan man and rarely missed any.

David Barker writes...

During the late 1950s Simon called me as he had heard from his Mother that I had joined Subud. He invited me to visit him at his firm's offices in the City so that he could learn more about it. I was very pleased to agree as I had known him all my life – we shared close family ties. After our meeting I put him in touch with the Helpers of the Colet Gardens group in London. Following his opening he joined the City of London group.

Simon's success in business and tremendous support for enterprise is well known. We worked very closely together for some years on a Sheltered Housing project in Sussex. We encountered all the usual problems of undercapitalisation and our resolve was tested! Simon was not afraid of risk and I came to admire his creativity when solving human management and financial difficulties.

A few weeks before Simon died he was working on a plan to help the Paula Hallett Trust. This plan typical of his business creativity would have been an example of his generosity. Our friendship spanned a lifetime and I shall miss him greatly.

Michael Heathcote adds...

I always found Simon to be a perfect gentleman, a dear friend and fully supportive of Bapak's vision of Subud in the world..

He was very astute in business but a perfect example to us all on how to encourage young enterprises in Subud. He supported a great many and some failures did not deter him from continuing to support new ones. He was always very precise and correct in his dealings, when it came to money, and provided you were equally straight with him there was never any malice or blame if the venture failed; but woe betide anyone if he thought they were trying to take advantage of him.

When I was involved with the Bosnia Charity he funded an ambulance and took a keen interest in how the charity was going – this was a great support. He will be dearly missed. ●

Ibu Rahayu gave a talk recently

– a Talk to Members on August 2th,
a Night of Power.

To view the video of the talk, go to

www.subudlibrary.net

IF YOU DON'T ALREADY HAVE A PASSWORD,
FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS THERE TO GET ONE.

Once on the site, go to Ibu Rahayu Talks (video) and scroll down to this video.

This is message from Vernon Contessa, moderator of the site. ●

They Were There – the Best of Subud Voice

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR COPY YET?

They Were There is an anthology of fascinating articles from early issues of Subud Voice, as compiled by Ilaina Lennard. Paperback: 186 pages.

Perhaps there are many Subud members nowadays – especially those who are new to Subud – who don't know very much about its early days in the West, so it is hoped that **THEY WERE THERE** will help to bring alive for them some of the things that happened at that time. Its chapters include:

- Bapak's horoscope – what a good astrologer saw
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- The chaos surrounding Bapak's first visit to the West
- The present state of the world
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Profits from sales will help keep Subud Voice FREE and ongoing for another 25 years. ●

Bad Film Comics *continued*

From Sebastian Hardy (UK)...



Please join us for the first Subud Youth Australia SKI CAMP!



Information and Booking Form

Please come and join us for a wonder-world of ice and snow! A holiday for endless skiing, toasting marshmallows, games by firelight and latihan with all your Subud buddies. There is no age restriction, all youth and young at heart are welcome. **We already have 24 people confirmed!** This is gonna be big people!

WHEN?

From Wednesday the 25th until Sunday 29th September 2013.

WHERE?

The SYAI SKI- CAMP is happening at THE MOUNTAIN VIEW RETREAT, 194 Great Alpine Road, Harrietville, Victoria, 3741. This is in the heartland of Victoria's stunning Alpine National Park.

HOW MUCH?

\$70 per night per person, which includes Breakfast and Dinner. We would vacate the rooms by noon on Sunday. Ski Hire and Ski Lift are extra costs but as it will be the end of the season there will be 'on the spot deals' and discounts. To have a look at pricing visit www.hoysskis.com.au. Isti Jenkins is going to get an estimate of costs and will keep you updated!

Ski gear hire will include BOOTS, PANTS and JACKET (bring your own if you prefer). An estimate of cost for these can also be seen on the www.hoskiss.com.au website.

MORE INFO?

For more detailed info about the lodge, visit: www.mountainviewretreat.com.au/deals.html

ANY QUESTIONS?

Bookings – Contact Zaakir at subud@zakir.com

Transport – Contact Emmanuel at Emmanuel.cahill@hotmail.com

General – Contact Isti at istijenkins46@me.com

Hope to see you there!

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IBU RAHAYU VIDEOS ONLINE

NEW Videos of new talks by Ibu Rahayu are on the online Subud library!

Go to www.subudlibrary.net

(If you don't yet have a password, it's easy to get one. Instructions are there.)

On December 8, 2012, Ibu Rahayu talked at length to members in Kalimantan, Indonesia.

See these:
 Ibu Rahayu Questions, Answers & Advice

Ibu Rahayu Talk to Members

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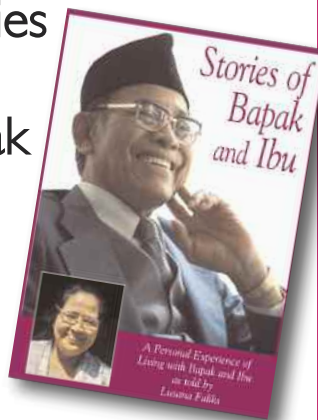
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MONTHLY ONLINE

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www.subudvoice.net

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

SUBMISSIONS

Send articles, photos, cartoons etc. to Harris Smart, Editor Subud Voice, email: editor@subudvoice.net Tel: + 61 3 95118122

Submissions are invited which relate to Subud life or are from Subud members. We cannot guarantee when or if a submission will 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 means providing an explanatory introduction or notes for the non-Subud reader

There is no payment for submissions. Correspondence about articles will generally not be entered into.

Submissions to Subud Voice may be edited for a variety of reasons including the need to shorten them or improve expression. If you do not want your submission to be edited in any way, please mark it clearly NOT TO BE EDITED.

The opinions expressed in the various articles are the sole responsibility of their authors and cannot be seen as representing the opinion of either the editor or the World Subud Association.

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