



## A Real Congress

*Subud Australia puts on a Hybrid National Congress in January 2021 combining live and virtual experiences.. Harris Smart writes...*

Our Subud Australia Virtual Congress began yesterday, Saturday January to 2020.

So far it has been a great success. At the end of our experience yesterday, someone said, "This feels like a real congress!" What could be better than that?

The first thing to be said about our virtual congress is that it is not entirely virtual. That is the organisers have built the agenda so that there are moments when we can come together collectively



*How Congress was last year January 2020, and, below, how congress is this year January 2021.*



from all around Australia's thru Zoom, and there are other moments where it is hoped that people will be able to get together live, face-to-face, person-to-person, person-to-God.

Of course, the extent to which this will be possible varies from place to place in Australia. Here on the north coast, we have been completely free of virus, thanks be to God and all his mercy. Consequently, we are able to meet as a group, whereas in other parts of Australia, there are clusters, lock- >

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downs, border closures, and the various other features of life under Covid.

### *Congress begins...*

So, our virtual congress began yesterday when we all gathered at 4 PM. About 20 people in all. We had a wonderful place to meet which is the Gynea Retreat Centre owned by members Stephen and Sonia Armitage.

They have been very generous in making their wonderful facilities available to the Subud group during the pandemic. They turned the blow to their business, into a fine wind for Subud in the area. As they say, it's an ill wind that blows nobody some good.

So, we gathered at Gynea and we did latihan. The men were able to use the magnificent space of the octagon.

Then we met for a very pleasant meal, and then we watched the opening ceremony of the Congress. People stayed around talking for several hours after dinner. It was really like a congress. You know, how people chat into the small hours about all kinds of things. That congress kind of conversation was happening around the room. That's when someone remarked, "Hey this feels like a real congress,"

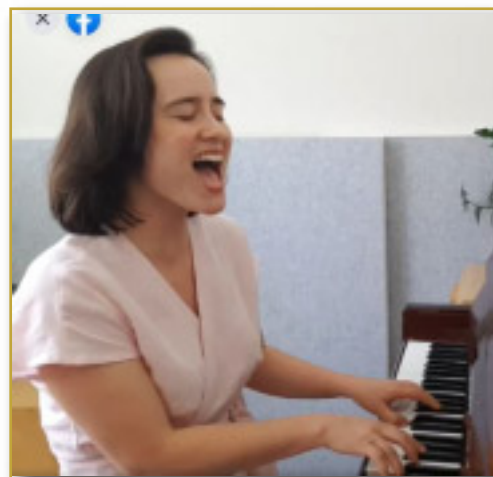
### *Later...The Foundation Stone...*

On the next day, Sunday, at the kejiwaan day after sharing in a circle how we were faring we tested our attitude to the coming year, how it is and how it should be. It seemed important to begin there. And in fact, this became like a foundation stone for me on which my whole congress experience was built. The purpose for me was readiness for the coming year. To be in the best possible shape for whatever the world had to fling at me, whether it be new strains of the virus or rioters in Washington or whatever...the Subud organisation and my person latihan and the support of my brothers and sisters in the community to which we belong...I would be able to deal with it, engage with it, overcome whatever needed to be overcome, give in to whatever needed to be given in to, transcend what needed to be transcended. To enjoy life and look to heaven...

### *The bubble of Congress...*

It is as if we have entered a bubble of congress. On the one hand it really fun, on the other hand it's really real. It's solemn. As David Ohri, the chair of Subud Australia reminded us in the Opening Ceremony when he read a quotation from Bapak in which he says our congresses may look like ordinary congresses but actually they are very deep in their connection to God. Also, Bapak advises us not to use our "sharp" minds,. Things will best be best resolved through the latihan and mutual respect.

I am now going to pass the baton to Laura Paterson in the USA, and she will talk about the "virtual aspects of the Congress", which ensued over the next week. Then I will come back for a final word about the conclusion of the Congress, which was a "live" Regional Gathering. And finally, former International Helper Isti Jenkins will round off our Congress coverage by talking about the Awakening Testing which was such an important part of our Regional Gathering and Congress... ●



*Frances Madden helped get the Subud Australia congress off to a great start with a rendition of her inspirational song "Side by Side"*

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## Congress by Zoom

*Laura Paterson from Los Angeles shares her impressions of the Subud Australia Congress. Her brief was to cover "virtual" aspects of the conference while in separate articles Harris Smart talks about the "live" experiences which were also part of this "hybrid (live and virtual) experience...*

*Follow the yellow brick road,  
Follow the rainbow over the stream,  
Follow the people who follow a dream*

As with Dorothy in 'The Wizard of Oz', our world is upended by a global tornado. A global disaster has transformed it into a new and strange place, into a world where nothing is as it had been or as it had appeared to be.

And as with Dorothy, everyone has been challenged to discover new and innovative ways of navigating this unprecedented and previously unimaginable environment.

One happy result of this has been that creativity and innovation have abounded. Zoom has entered the room. And the great island continent of Australia beckoned us to her with her 2021 Subud Australia National Congress.

Subud Australia made the bold decision to hold its 2021 National Congress by making full use of the new social paradigm and new technologies, in an innovative blend of zoom virtual reality and pre-recorded, beautifully curated content.

For the first time in the history of Subud Australia, their National Congress became a truly international event, easily accessible to Subud members around the world at the click of a link.

And so, without the cost of travel or accommodation or meals or services, Subud members everywhere had the most up-close and personal contact imaginable with our very warm and loving Australian brothers and sisters.

They extended to all of us the warmest possible welcome into their vibrant and immensely fulfilling group lives. I could not wait to take full advantage of this opportunity, so with the greatest excitement, I sent off for my access link.

#### Upon clicking it...

I was immediately immersed in the warm bath of Subud love and harmony. As with any momentous Subud occasion, Subud Australia's 2021 National Congress existed outside of time, showering everyone in the uniquely Subud glow of latihan love and harmony that we all are so blessed to receive.

Beginning Saturday, January 2nd, Subud Australia gave Subud members around the world a full week of an incredibly immersive Subud congress experience. Every day the Congress website overflowed with live virtual meetings and brilliantly curated recorded content.

Subud Australia National Chair, David Ohri, conducted the Opening Ceremony, which was simple, humble, and sincere. He was followed with moving performances by Audrey Longerhan, Frances Madden and Emmanuel Cahill. By the end of the ceremony, I was totally in love with all of my Australian brothers and sisters.

I felt total gratitude for their dedicated, loving and deeply harmonious spirit. For their total warmth and sincerity. For being always so gracious, with such generosity of spirit. For always proceeding with the utmost harmony, and total love and respect for each other.

The abundant offerings of pre-recorded content were presented with the greatest care, skill and competence. Every day, Subud members were treated to a rich smorgasbord of deeply satisfying experiences.

There were tours of all the Australian Subud houses, showcasing beautiful and lovingly cared for >



*They gave us the warmest possible welcome into their vibrant group lives.*



*At the helpers' Zoom workshop.*

properties, and introducing us to vibrant and loving and deeply harmonious Subud members.

There were videos of deeply loved Subud members from the 'Memories of Bapak' series produced in the 1990s by Subud New York member, Jerry Chalem.

There were historical, archival videos of past Subud World Congresses, including the unforgettable 'Bapak's Congress' held in Cilandak in 1971.

And there were Bapak talks. Every day, there was a new Bapak talk, lovingly chosen by Subud Australia National Helpers.

There were informative and inspiring presentations from MSF, Dharma Care, and the WSA Archives project. There was a delightful entertainment from the Northern New South Wales Group Men's Choir.

All of this content was presented on the brand new, gorgeous, shiny Subud Australia website. Every day was 'A Bright Sun Shiny Day' at Subud Australia's National Congress!

### The closing...

The Closing event will be on Saturday January 9th. It speaks for itself on the Subud Australia website: "A real highlight of recent in-person Australia Congresses has been 'Culture Couch', with dynamic duo Harris Smart and Roland Fraval. We highly recommend you tune in to watch it!"

### Some huge takeaways from this Congress...

Subud Australia is astonishingly multi-generational! The membership ranges from dedicated youth, to young working families, to mid-life experienced and dedicated members, to true wisdom-keepers, lifetime Subud members. They are our Subud sages. Very often, they also are the parents and grandparents of our young up-and-coming generations

It was a special joy to witness the warmth and closeness and genuineness of these inter-generational bonds. To see babes-in-arms, with delightful toddlers and energetic children, all intermingling with the adults in their lives, who are at all of the varying life stages.

It also was very exciting to see how live and recorded events were interfaced into one seamless whole experience. What a great model, what a great prototype, for national and zonal and international congresses in the future.

For indeed, the future will be a very different place. Subud will be adapting to that, as will everything else that is going to survive and move into the new paradigm. Virtuality will be a huge underpinning of that new paradigm.

Subud Australia clearly is deeply committed to the emerging values of the new global social paradigm, most notably in the conduct of their outer, material lives. I take these values to be those that we always have cherished and espoused in Subud. That is the values of transparency and accountability, with emphasis always on clear, open, honest and harmonious communication.

“ *Live and recorded events interfaced into one seamless whole experience...* ”

The technologies of our new age will drive the necessity for the survival of any organization to be the manifestation of these values. Internet tools and platforms >



*After the workshop, Irwan and Peter. Any sign of improved receiving?...*



*WSA Chair Nahum Harlap attended every council meeting of the Australian congress and showed clarity and vision.*

like email, Instagram, Facebook, Zoom, and WhatsApp will ensure that transactions and communications will be subject to awareness, understanding, and evaluation by the public. Increasingly, these technologies will ensure that leaders must adhere to the highest ethical standards.

For seven hours I witnessed Subud Australia's National Council meeting being conducted with the utmost fiscal and organizational transparency and integrity. Every aspect of Subud Australia's financial and administrative dealings was on the table.

Every item was examined, considered, *Socially* and debated upon. Full resolution was achieved with the utmost harmony and respect. All this took place in real time and in full view and witness by every member who wished to attend.

One member who was present for every Council session was Nahum Harlap, Chairman of the World Subud Association. Nahum brought great vision and clarity to the meetings. This provided a very effective illustration of the great importance of there being continuous and ongoing communication and collaboration between the various entities and 'levels' of the Subud organization.

These societal and organizational values are being well absorbed into the entire Subud organization, up to and including the Muhammad Subuh Foundation. Subud members can follow the direction of their leadership with the utmost confidence. They can know that at all times the highest values of honesty, integrity, transparency, and accountability are being observed and maintained.

I followed the people who followed a dream. In doing so, I experienced the greatest possible satisfaction and happiness.

THANK YOU SUBUD AUSTRALIA FOR YOUR 2021 VIRTUAL NATIONAL CONGRESS!!! ●



*Intrepid reporter, Laura Paterson. In charge of the "down-under desk" and ready for anything.*

## Between a Live and a Virtual Place...

*Harris Smart writes about a Regional Gathering which wound up the Subud Australia National Congress which came to an end on Sunday, January 10, 2021...*

I have already told you in a previous article about how the congress began, and Laura Paterson, our ace reporter from LA, has told you all about how it worked as a virtual congress employing zoom and various other technologies of communication.

So, she has concentrated on the virtual side, and I have been concerned with the "live" side. Because our Congress combined both virtual and "real".

The congress ended with a three-day regional gathering. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday lunchtime. On the north coast of New South Wales near the historic town of Stokers Siding, Irwan and Lena Wyllie made their home available as the venue for the "live" regional gathering, which would conclude the congress and involve "actual live people" getting together.

The Wyllies have a beautiful big house on top of a hill with



*Many people remember Maya as the "bat girl" of the Sydney World Congress. She us still into bats and she brought these baby Mega Bats to the Congress. As a carer, she looks after bats who have become separated from their mothers. The bats think she is their mother now.* >

magnificent views down into verdant valleys up which zephyrs sweep from the sea bringing delightful relief on the hottest days. From their back veranda you can see Mount Warning, the major geomantic landmark in this area.

Not only do they have a big house, but they have another building which they call "The Barracks". This was an entire army barracks that a few years ago they picked up and put on a truck and transported to the property. So, they have lots of accommodation, and places for meeting and doing simultaneous latihans.

They actually had some of the regional gatherers to stay in their house. Some had come from distant points, since our group covers a vast geographical area, and for whom it would be too far to drive back and forth to the regional gathering. Fortunately, the Wyllies have many beds in their establishment. We also had a visitor from Cairns, Lucida, who lives thousands of kms away.

*Well, as you would expect...*

We did a lot of latihan and testing at the regional gathering I'm not going to tell you all the questions we tested because you really "have to be there". We did a lot of very lively discussion followed by breaking up into small groups and testing.

There was a lot of sitting around talking, there was eating, and other typical congress activities of that nature. On Thursday evening there was guitar playing and singalong.

*Handing over Culture Couch...*

A momentous moment for me at this Congress was when I handed over the care of Culture Couch to young (only 35 years or so) Roland Fraval. For several years now I have done this thing called Culture Couch, where I interview people who sit on the couch like one of those TV interview programs. I've done it at Australian congresses and even at world congresses and it always goes down very well.

I enjoy doing it, because interviewing people is very easy for me. I am in a lovely, relaxed state when I do it. However lately, as I age, I feel less and less inclined to have to do the organisational work necessary to make a Culture Couch manifest. I need a manager to do all that sort of work. How come God is making so many artists of various kinds these days, but not nearly enough managers?

I reached a point where I just didn't want to have to carry this organisational burden anymore. I still feel perfectly capable of doing the interviews but not the organisation. Anyway, I suddenly realised that it was time for me to pass it on. Pass it on to the next generation. Pass the baton on. Fortunately, there was Roland Fraval, relatively young as well as being very energetic and creative. So, he picked it up.

So, on the Saturday night of the regional gathering before a live audience, I appeared on Culture Couch not as the interviewer but as a guest, and Roland interviewed me. It went down extremely well I must say. The high point was when Roland asked me to tell a joke and I re-

“ So, the virus affects us all. We do not live in a ‘Subud bubble’... ”



*Harris Smart has been doing Culture Couch for more than 10 years. Now he has handed it over to young Roland Fraval to carry on into the future.*

*So Roland interviewed Harris on Zoom at Congress. (Photos by Laura Paterson)*

membered one and I told it very well, the punchline came out just right, and everyone laughed heartily. It was a very good note to go out on.

### Meanwhile...

Meanwhile while we were having our Congress, while we were in our Congress bubble, the whole world was going on. A world of epidemics and politics.

On the Wednesday in the week of our Congress truly amazing events were happening in the city of Washington where the outgoing president of the USA encouraged his supporters to wreck the place which they promptly did resulting in a several deaths.

We watched the rioters invade the Capitol building, Bringing the business of congress to a halt. I believe that this moment will be as significant as when people ask, "Do you remember where you were when Kennedy died? Do you remember where you were at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis? Do you remember where you were when the rioters stormed the Capitol building?"

### We began...

We began this Congress by testing the questions, how am I now as I face 2021? How should I be? Of course, many views and attitudes are possible. Some more optimistic, some more pessimistic. Some believe that the pandemic may bring completely new systems of society and economics. Others see it as the beginning of the mad Max universe, where society will break up and lawless bandits will roam the land. Some wonder if it isn't the beginning of the end! Apocalypse now?

It was also a very bad week in the epidemic in Australia which has been relatively virus-free compared to many other countries, but the first cases were discovered of the new contagious "British virus". A woman had done a shift as a cleaner in a hotel where arrivals from overseas were in quarantine and she caught the virus. Then she had wandered about innocently and the virus spread, and a "cluster" was declared in Brisbane and once again there was lockdown and borders were closed.

This meant that half a dozen guests from Brisbane who were going to come to our regional gathering could no longer come. There was too much risk that they might not be able to get across the border.

So, the virus affects us all. Even we in Subud. We do not live in a "bubble". The world intrudes. We may have the latihan, but we still



*Congress chat on the Wylie's veranda.*



*Meanwhile in Washington, DC...*



*Lunch at the Regional Gathering.  
About 30 people attended altogether.*



*Developing the inner  
resources of latihan and  
surrender deal with  
whatever the world throws  
at us next...*



have to deal with circumstance.

### Awakening testing...

One of the most exciting and important happenings at the Congress was the “rediscovery” of AWAKENING TESTING. The local women helpers’ group, which now includes former international helper Isti Jenkins, introduced the women to this form of testing and it caused interest and excitement. News of this soon spilled over to the men and we need to embrace this form of testing and found it good.

God willing, the next article will bring you information about how this testing should be conducted and references from both Bapak and Ibu Rahayu explaining what it is all about.

### The sun comes out...

On Sunday afternoon we shared a last meal and then began to disperse, though a considerable group remained behind in Wyllie’s living room, singing and playing guitars in a spirit of “more, more, more, we don’t want this to end”.

As I drove away from the Wyllie’s property there was a break in the clouds and the sun came out for the first time in a week. Yes, during the week of our Congress we had had a blessed cooling rain. One of the downsides to living in this area is that it does get hot, hot, hot and so it was good that our Congress was carried out in this gentle, refreshing rain.

But now the sun had come out, as if to say, that was all very well but now it’s time for you to re-engage with the world, and in dealing with your life you can bring with you anything you gained or learned from this Congress.

I am not amongst those we expect a 2021 is going to be the end of our 2020 troubles. Things may well get worse, let’s face it. With new strains of the virus now often appearing. Are vaccines going to be effective against them? Who knows? All the doctors are saying is that there haven’t yet been signs that the vaccine is not effective... that’s not that reassuring.

Therefore, I think what we all hope for is that we are going to develop the inner resources of latihan and surrender to be able to deal with whatever the world decides to throw at us next. That we will not be crushed by any circumstance. The power of the latihan will prevail no matter what. That we can handle anything, rise above anything,

As I left the Wyllies’ place, I remembered the words from Bapak with which our National Chair, David Ohri, had opened the congress. Bapak had said that though our congresses may look like ordinary congresses they are actually quite different in their reality.

Yes, our meeting may have looked like any meeting but just think of the depth and spaciousness of the experience, how full this week had been in divine and human connection. Deep and spacious indeed! Much more than you would think on the surface.

### Thank you...

Congratulations to the National Committee and Helpers who made this event possible, made a space for it. They proved that we could rise above circumstances and have one of the most satisfying congresses ever despite virus, despite trouble in Washington.

Despite worldwide pandemic, our organisation had enough strength to make this Congress hap- >



*Carmita, Lucida and Mo di.  
There was lots of music-making.*



*Lena and Irwan Wyllie who hosted the Regional  
Gathering part of our Congress.*



pen. Thanks to all the organisers particularly Jonathan Evans the main Congress organiser, whom we all thought was osteopath, but turns out to have a lot of organisational and technological expertise as well.

### Statistics from Jonathon Evans...

We have had 221 separate people login and watch Congress and given that many people watch as a couple or like in NSW in a group, the number of people watching the Congress was probably about the 250 mark which is actually quite a bit more than our usual attendance congress.

2020, 102 that stayed on site and 55-day visitors.

2019, 70 in total (the smaller congress at Sine Cera)

2018, 100 stayed on site and 20-day visitors.

One of the things that did boost this congress was international visitors which was 42, although that still gives very good Oz attendance, as although we have 603 members in Subud Australia, only 392 are active (i.e., attend group latihan) and if we add our 42 remote members to that = 434 then we had approximately 50% of those members attend this virtual congress. ●

## Awakening Testing

*Isti Jenkins, former International Helper, reports on the kejiwaan experience at the recent Australian Congress. While most of the recent Australian Congress was conducted on Zoom, some groups were able to meet live for parts of it, including regional gatherings at the end of Congress.*

*Isti's report focuses on the regional gathering of the Northern NSW Subud Group. The article looks in particular at the AWAKENING TESTING which became an important subject for discussion and practice at this gathering. Isti writes...*

Between the 7th and 10th January 2021, Lena and Irwan Wyllie offered the use of their beautiful property as a venue for all of us to be together for which we are extremely grateful, particularly due to the present circumstances of the world.

Unfortunately, six of our Brisbane members were unable to attend as the border closed again!

We joined in the viewing of the Virtual addressing the National and International Helpers with questions concerning our need to conduct a session of Awakening Testing, Listening to Bapak's Talks and reading Susila Budhi Dharma. Groups from around Australia kindly gave us their feedback with varied responses.

Suryadi Haryono explained the importance and significance of actually hearing Bapak's voice when listening to his talks because of the content of these divinely inspired words that could be absorbed by our soul and not heard by our heart and mind. About nine men and nine women were present.

### Awakening Testing...

After Latihan during the next day the helpers offered everyone an opportunity to experience Awakening Testing and expressed their own need to first practice this themselves.

Why did Ibu Rahayu remind us of the value in doing this testing? We do this with members every two or three months in small groups with at least three helpers in each group to simply be a channel for the member receiving in the centre.

### What was the explanation?

A quote from Bapak says: "Our worship is to make us healthy in body and soul. When every part of us is made alive by the holy force, everything we do is worship". (*Kedjiwaan workshop, Awakening Testing, January 7, Convention Hall 1982*).



*Isti with banner....*

“ Once every two months is fine...” ”

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A quote from Ibu Rahayu says: “This kind of testing is very important to do, both for the new members and also for members who have done Latihan a long time. This testing awakens the different parts of the body, so that we experience how our hands, our legs, how all parts of our body move in response to the tests. This is the most important thing; it is how we put our Latihan into practice. This is how God guides us.

(from Ibu Rahayu’s letter for the National Kedjiwaan meeting in Oslo, from Pamulang 16th October 2016)

### TAKEN FROM THE LATEST Advice and Guidance for Bapak’s Helpers

#### *Another explanation from Ibu Rahayu (reference 70 HAM 3)*

Why is this necessary? It is so that the soul you contain will come to know every part of the inner feeling in your being.

Eventually, if your soul has come to know and is familiar with it, your entire inner feeling will be like clothes for the soul, a necessity for your soul. Consequently, you will be able to experience things with your soul in the same way that you experience things in this world with your physical body. This is followed by...

### THE WAY TO DO AWAKENING TESTS

Now as this kind of testing can be more powerful, you don’t need to do it too often. Once every two months is fine - to help members feel the benefit of, or the need for the regular Latihan they do twice a week. If they don’t feel a benefit or a need, they will quickly get bored and feel that their latihan is pointless.

This kind of test is also necessary to awaken in them an understanding of what they receive in latihan. But don’t do it too often, because as I said, it can be more powerful than the regular latihan.

Now the way to do this testing is that both the person who asks the question and the person who receives the test must face God, so that they become a channel for the test.

This applies both to the one who gives the test and the one who receives. Then we will be under God’s protection and the one who receives will feel the test, and the one who asks the question will be guided from within.

Also keep the test simple and don’t go too deep. Don’t test all kinds of things that Bapak used to and go really deep, because we are dealing with the soul, and if a person cannot return to their normal state it will have unfortunate consequences for them. 02 KUL 1, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 6 March 2002

#### *Isti concludes...*

It was a very pleasing experience for all of us, especially those younger members who had never shared the experience before!

Decisions were made to listen to BAPAK TALKS together more often and to continue being attentive and supporting towards each other, making positive use of this strange worldly crisis that we are all existing in at present.

#### *Guidance on awakening testing...*

This guidance is based on reports of testing recommended by Ibu Rahayu...

It is recommended... This testing is for members who are experienced in testing and may be repeated beneficially as often as every three months.

That the helpers practice this testing on each other and that the helper to carry out the testing is tested.

That this testing is done with groups including up to 3 helpers.

That the helper carrying out the testing remains to one side.

That the helper carrying out the testing reminds members to receive as far as possible only with the part being tested.

The way to do this testing is that both the person who asks the question and the person who receives the test must face God, so they become

“ *To help members feel the benefit of, or the need for the regular Latihan...* ”

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a channel for the test.

Here are some examples of questions...

Where is...person's name?

Where is your true inner 'I'?

Where is your head? How does it move in response to something negative? How does it move in response to something positive?

Where are your arms? How do your arms move in response to something negative? How do your arms move in response to something positive?

Where are your legs and feet? How do your legs and feet move in response to something negative? How do your legs and feet move in response to something positive?

There are times when it is appropriate for us to have a sense of things without other people knowing how we feel...

So, now feel your inner head. How does your inner head feel when something is wrong? How does your inner head feel when something is right?

Now test your inner arms. How do your inner arms feel when something is negative? How do your inner arms feel when something is positive?

Now feel your inner feeling. How does your inner feeling feel when something is negative? How does your inner feeling feel when something is positive?

Now return to your outer body. How is it when your outer body is in harmony with your inner feeling and inner body?

This sequence of tests is for guidance only. The helpers conducting the testing should be open to asking other questions received by themselves on the needs of members to test for other parts of their body to be awakened.

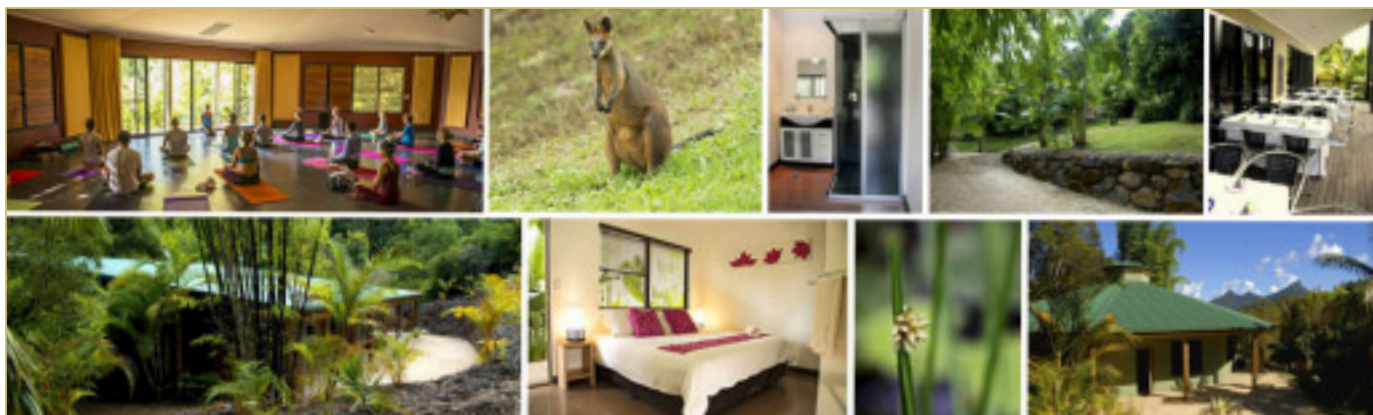
Here are some further examples of questions to test, but in testing with a person it is usual to test perhaps only 5 or 6 questions. These are just offered as examples.

Click the link below:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Awakening-Testing-lbu-Questions.pdf> ●

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## GYMEA ECO RETREAT CENTRE AND SPA



*Harris writes... In the last issue of Subud Voice I talked about the energetic and colorful area where I now live on the North Coast of New South Wales in Australia.*

*I said how the Subud group here is particularly active, with many Subud members participating in community endeavors and developing projects and enterprises, often around the theme of sustainability. I said that God willing I hope to write about some of these projects...*

*The first one I want to talk about is the Gymea Eco Retreat Center and Spa, owned by Stephen and Sonia Armytage. This enterprise is situated not far from Mount Warning and near the town of Uki.*

*With its warm climate and natural environment of rivers and rainforests close to the sea, the caldera is a popular place for creating all kinds of retreat centers.*

*A personal journey...*

*Stephen Armytage has an inspiring story of a personal journey that led to Gymea.*

*He comes from a strong Subud family, the third son of Sofyan and Halimah Armytage, loved and >*

respected Subud members originally from the UK who settled in Melbourne in 1964.

Stephen first studied to be a schoolteacher, but after teaching for only a year he decided he needed to find something that paid better. He began to work for an American multinational as an IT trainer.

He then moved on to the major consulting company Deloitte, where he was appointed as a senior partner and worked as a management consultant to major industry and government clients in Australia and New Zealand.

He married Sonia, who comes from Melbourne's vibrant Italian diaspora. They met first at teachers' college, but then drifted apart until they met again a few years later when each had just returned from the USA.

They shared contrasts and commonalities of their USA experience and this led to friendship and marriage. Sonia came into Subud in New Zealand in 1994. They had two children Lyndan now 23, and Alyssa, who is 21.

At the age of forty-four on all levels Stephen was doing well. He was a lead partner at Deloitte earning a good living, but he was not happy and realized something had to change.

He and Sonia decided to take the family for a trip of a lifetime around Australia in a camper trailer for a year. He realized that his health, his family and finding his own authentic direction were what really mattered to him. A simpler lifestyle relating to sustainability was what he wanted to find.

### [Epiphany at Christchurch...](#)

This epic journey concluded at the Christchurch world congress where, along with his brothers Harry and Livingston, and American lawyer Kenneth Clark, in a broom cupboard, he investigated deeply through talking and testing what it was that he should really be doing in life.

For Stephen it was to become SUSTAINABLY AUTHENTIC. He had to live it. He had to "get his hands dirty".

After Christchurch, Stephen and Sonia looked at various possibilities where they could put the vision into practice. Stephen was very excited about a thousand-acre piece of land, but it was not near a town, or schools for the children and other infrastructure.

On the very night Stephen decided he had to give up his vision for the 1000 acres, Sonia spotted what was to become Gymea.

Things that were stuck started to flow again. Chance happenings began to indicate a direction. Serendipity and synchronicity started to reveal themselves once again. They had downsized their environmental footprint and were living sustainably.

They had found a property where it was clear that potential existed for its use as a retreat center for mind-body-spirit health, meditation, yoga, detox, eco-conferences and eco-corporate events. Stephen and Sonia bought the retreat which they called Gymea in 2010.



*Yoga class in the Octagon...*



*Stephen and Sonya Armitage.*

“ Stephen decided he had to become sustainably authentic.. He had to live it. He had to 'get his hands dirty' ”

### The retreat center...

The property that Stephen and his wife found was 54 acres and now is 96 acres, with mixed forest and rolling hills, and only 35 minutes from the Gold Coast on the east coast of Australia.

It has 21 rooms and 42 beds, a huge octagonal hall of 2,600 sq. feet, a health spa, sauna, steam, plunge, Jacuzzi and a 60' x 36' 80,000-gallon magnesium pool.

All of this is located near Mount Warning, a landmark in the area. The quality and appointment of the rooms, furnishings, integrated day spa, grounds and general amenities provide a great formula for clients.



### We are maximizers...

They have adopted a values or principle-based approach to everything they do. Gymea is committed to sustainability, co-creating outcomes with clients and seeking synergistic interactions in everything they do.

As Stephen says, "We are all about creating a peaceful, harmonious and sustainable world, and we do this by engaging in the realms of possibility. We choose abundance. We are maximizers."

Stephen is hard at work forming a collaborative global network of conscious people and resources. He is refining his partner model.



### Specific interest areas

Much of the work in refurbishing what was a fairly dilapidated set of buildings has been done by Stephen himself assisted by more than 50m local tradespeople. He is committed to sustainable architecture and building and enjoys working with young adults, developing mind-body-spirit programs, community living, and promoting and being innovative generally in the field of sustainability.

So, he and Sonia are attracting consumers who share these values. And they're looking beyond the shores of Australia too,



*Stephen insists this is a family enterprise. Stephen, Sonia, Alyssa and Lyndan on their way to the Freiburg World Congress.*

### Gymea and Subud...

In 2020, like businesses all around the world, Gymea's business was severely affected by the Covid-19 crisis. For six months they could not host their usual clients for retreats and conferences. This blow to the business turned out to be a big boon to the Subud group.

While there has been a Subud presence here for many years, the North Coast group has never had property of its own, even though we would love one! Over the years the Subud group has tended to be nomadic, its membership scattered all over the caldera and beyond.

Sometimes the group has been centered around Byron Bay to the south. These days there is a concentration of members around the village of Uki to the north, where Gymea also is located,

Because their facilities were free, Stephen and Sonia generously made them available to the Subud group. In particular a beautiful space called the Octagon became our place of latihan.

This is a beautiful almost circular building which is used for gatherings and was a good size during Covid to accommodate latihan for men and women.

It has to be one of the best spaces in the world to do latihan. It also has the most amazing echo, reminiscent of the one in the latihan hall in Wisma Subud.

Not only latihan but also...

We also used Gymea for social gatherings, celebrating Bapak's birthday and kejiwaan days. The fact that Gymea was available to us also greatly enhanced our ability to be together for Ramadan.

A topic which is often discussed is whether there might be some way of creating a Subud house using land currently owned by Gymea. There is one section of about 16 acres which could perhaps become suitable for this purpose.

Many questions...

Naturally many questions have to be answered. What kind of arrangements could be made between Gymea and the Subud group? What kind buildings could be built? Should they be permanent or temporary?

Of course, there are other options, such as purchasing a building in the nearby town of Murwillumbah, and many of us hope that by one way or another, 2021 will bring real progress towards creating a home for the group.

In the next issue we plan to write about the ECR (Eco Camp Retreat) a new project which is being developed by Gymea.

“ We are all about creating a peaceful, harmonious and sustainable world...”

## Miracles Happen...

Harris writes...

We are all always influencing each other by what we say and perhaps even more by what we do, the example we give.

While I was talking to Stephen about Gymea, he told me a story.

He told me about that time at the Christchurch Congress when he was trying to figure out what he should do with his life.

One day he was in a workshop and Karim McDonald, who was at that time the headmaster of BCU school, announced that he was urgently trying to find an English teacher to come immediately to BCU school.

Stephen and his brother Harry were very touched by this appeal and they decided to find Karim the person he needed.

So, it happened that I was peacefully eating my dinner that night, when Harry comes up to me and tells me I have to make an announcement that BCU school needs an English teacher right now.

I don't know what it is.... Maybe people think I have a big booming voice which will cut through the rattle of cutlery on crockery and the animated congress conversation, and so they are always asking me to make announcements

I hate doing it. I hate interrupting the lively dinner chat with announcements from me.

So rather than have to make the announcement, I said to Harry, "Don't worry about it I'll go."

Well, to tell the truth, it wasn't just to get out of making an announcement that I went to BCU school. When I had arrived at congress, a young person had thrust a microphone in my face and asked me why had come to Congress. I said, "It's to find a new life."

Like Stephen, I had come to Congress looking for a "new direction". And when Harry told me that BCU school needed a teacher, I knew that was just the adventure I had come to Congress for.

Stephen told me that at a time when he was trying to figure out his life he had been very impressed by the way I made an instant decision and carried it through. He said that had a big influence on him in his own deliberation about what he was going to do.

So, it was interesting to find out that I had an influence on someone all those years ago.



Stephen on Muck. He has named all his heavy-duty earth moving equipment.

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Now Stephen is a big influence on me. He is a natural leader, a national helper, a good-humoured and warm individual who with his wife runs a big serious enterprise in challenging times. He is truly committed to a life of sustainability and owns heavy earth-moving equipment. No wonder I am impressed.



*I had a hand in a miracle...*



At the end of our conversation, Stephen said, “At the time I went to Christchurch I was satisfied with the worldly things I had done with my life but there was this feeling of depression. At the root of which was my concern with the direction humanity was going. What kind of world were we going to hand on to our kids?”

“I wanted to do something, but the magnitude of the challenge was huge, paralysing.

“Then, what happened at Congress was like a miracle. At 2 pm in the afternoon we heard about Karim’s need for a teacher and by 6 pm dinner time we had satisfied that need. I had had a hand in a miracle.

“It vastly increased my confidence. It made me feel that anything was possible. I saw that miracles can manifest in hours, minutes. If I could partner with God and my fellow human beings, then I could do anything.”

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## THE SUBUD SYMBOL AND THE ORGANIZATION

*Laura Paterson, a former chair of Subud USA who has a heart for the organization, writes about the Subud symbol and the structure of Subud. She writes...*

“I was awestruck as I began to comprehend this Subud structure, it seemed profoundly apparent to me that it exactly replicated the Subud symbol...”

During the time that I was National Chair of Subud USA, from 1998 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to 2000 in Vancouver, Washington, I had an insight that has remained with me ever since. It was a purely practical, ordinary kind of insight, and not a spiritual one at all. But perhaps it will be a thought that may be of some interest to others.

On a flight home from Seattle to New York, I was sitting on the plane with a fellow Subud committee member, and we were discussing the Subud organizational structure. Since this subject had been attracting my attention for some time by then, I happened to have with me copies of bylaws for Subud USA and also for the World Subud Association.

Now, as is the nature of by-laws, those particular ones may not any longer be relevant, it has been twenty years since that flight, and perhaps those bylaws have changed many times over by now. Nonetheless, the basic structure of the Subud organization remains exactly as it was created by Bapak during his time with us.

It also was interesting to me to reflect on the fact that during his time with us, Bapak focused quite as much on the organizational and entrepreneurial aspects of Subud as he did on the spiritual. These often were significant topics and themes in the talks that Bapak gave. Very often they also constituted the theme of testing sessions with members.

Fortunately, there were a good many very talented and dedicated Subud members who were interested in these worldly, material aspects of our spiritual association, and so Bapak’s dedication to creating the organizational structure of Subud was able to be completed during his lifetime.

This structure has remained unchanged in the almost thirty-five years since Bapak’s passing. Both Bapak and Ibu Rahayu very often emphasized to us how important it was that it should remain so, that Subud’s organizational structure should remain always as it was originally created by Bapak during his lifetime.

[The “org chart”...](#)

My new responsibilities as Subud USA National Chair had brought me very often into interactions >



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with many other Subud members around the world, who also were carrying out their respective committee functions. So I began to wonder exactly how were we connected to each other, in our outer, worldly functions as committee members.

In other words, I began to need to be able to see what was Subud's 'Org Chart', what was its diagram, its model, of how we were connected to each other, what exactly was the nature of our inter-relationships with each other, what were our mutual responsibilities and obligations to each other. Hence the copies of by-laws bulging out of my carry-on bag. Now, I happened to be familiar with the concept of 'org charts' from my work in the world. Organizational structure was something that I dealt with on a daily basis, because essentially it is the first tool of survival in an organizational culture. You have to know exactly "who is who and what they do" in order to function in any way effectively.

So as I began to peruse the by-laws of our respective Subud organizational entities, I began to feel a real sense of awe, a most profound sense of gratitude, and an overwhelming sense of the enormous magnitude of love and care with which Bapak had created this Subud 'organisasi', this organizational structure for Subud.

I was awestruck because, as I began to comprehend this structure, it seemed profoundly apparent to me that it exactly replicated the Subud symbol. It seemed very clear to me that the organizational structure of Subud is a living, pulsating, organic, functioning, manifestation of the Subud symbol, here in the material world. That in the great reality, we all live and work and worship within the enfolding and supporting framework of the great life, the life that is beyond this life.

#### Seven levels...

Subud's 'org chart' consists of seven levels. The first level, the first circle, is the individual Subud member. Then there is the local group, and then the regional and national levels. Then the zonal and area levels, and finally, the seventh level of our Subud hierarchy, the Subud World Association, which in reality consists of every single individual Subud member in the world.

The rays represent the helpers and committee members, moving forward and back again throughout the organization, from the individual to the international and then back again.

It is important to remember, as Bapak very often told us, that those positions only ever represent functions or duties, and that never do they represent any individual Subud members. The international helper, the WSA Chair, they all become individual members after their time of responsibility is completed.

How this organizational structure functions to benefit all of us, in its up and down movement, from the individual member to the all-embracing international level, and then back again, can be demonstrated very simply. It can be demonstrated by the journey of the contribution made by an individual member to their local group or center. This contribution benefits everyone in the group. But more than that, a portion then is passed through to the region, where the benefit radiates outward to increase the strength and benefit to the region. And onward...

Ultimately, the journey of this one individual contribution reaches the international level, by which time it has multiplied many times over, from the contributions of members from all around the world.

This contribution then can return to the individual member, in the form of support from the WSA or the MSF for the purchase of a Subud house. So that the original individual member now has a spiritual home in which to do latihan and to share Subud life and activities and enterprises with their other local brother and sisters.

#### The great gift...

So for me, the really important, the really crucial, aspect of this 'org chart' is that we don't get caught, that we don't get trapped, within one or another of these circles. That we don't just see only as far as ourselves, or only our group, or only our region.

The great gift of this organizational structure is that it enables our understanding, our awareness, our experience, to encompass the whole world, and everything in it.

“Bapak focused quite as much on the organizational and entrepreneurial aspects of Subud as he did on the spiritual.”



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The great gift of this organizational structure, which was created for us so carefully by Bapak, is that we truly can always be aware of each other, that we truly can become one with each other, that we truly can always be united together, in love and harmony, and in our worship of Almighty God.

So to me, what this really means is that with the Subud symbol, Bapak left for us who are here in this material, earthly world a dimension that truly encompasses all Subud members and all of their activities. And that it is this dimension which holds the latihan. To me, therefore, what the Subud symbol really represents is that this is how Bapak still remains here with us in this world. ●

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## Archives Update 2

*From Daniela Moneta, WSA Archivist, USA...*

Welcome back to the second installment of Archives Update. This month we are highlighting the publications of Luqman McKingley. As mentioned last month, Subud members can request access to the Subud Archives website by sending an email to [admin@wsaarchives.org](mailto:admin@wsaarchives.org). This website is restricted for Subud members only. The website gives access to historical documents, videos, films, photographs, publications, interviews, and stories that tell the history and development of Subud - today as it is being made and back to the mid-1950s when Subud started to spread around the world. Here are some of the new and most popular things we have put on the Subud Archives' website this past month. Be sure to view this column each month for new and popular things that members are viewing.

### **DIGITAL BOOKS:** (See below for highlights of the first four books mentioned)

Canopy: A Rainforest Romance, An Epic Dayak Saga, An Adventure into the Ecology of Reality ; Adam and His Children: A Brief History of Human Life; Journey Beyond the Stars: A Story of the Early Life of Muhammad Subuh; The Light of Christ (selections from talks by Bapak); L' Eveil du Guide Intérieur : Et Voyages et Séjours en Afrique 1983-1991(in French); Experiencing the Miraculous: A Gift of Grace; Sinar Prebidi (a novella by Bapak); The Experiences of Mas Sudarto Martohudojo; Autobiography: The History of Bapak R.M. Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo; Susila Budhi Dharma : A poem received and written down in High Javanese with a commentary in Indonesian, 2002 ed. ; Remembrances of Bapak's Last Days; Tokyo Talks by Husein Rofé ; Wayang Heroes in the Pewarta; Indonesian for Subud Members; and others.

### **MOVIES AND VIDEOTAPED INTERVIEWS:**

(including 100+ interviews made for the Memories of Bapak Project, 1995-2000)

Interviews with: Luqman McKingley (1999); Rashid Carré (1996); Leonard Tjalsma (2020); Mikhail David (1997); Asti Syafrudin (1996); Machtar Salzman (1995); Harun Taormina (1995); Rosanna Hille (1995); Lienhard Berger (1996); Robert Bachelor (1995); Helen and Peter Mark Richman (1995); Istimah Week (1997); and others.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS:**

Historical photographs that you can use (with permission) in your national or local newsletters. Added recently: Photos of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Subud World Congress in Tokyo (1967); ; Bapak picking plums in Christchurch, New Zealand, 1978; Menucha Kejiwaan Gathering, November 2018; Photos taken at the 5th Subud World Congress in Wolfsburg, Germany, and others.

### **HIGHLIGHTED THIS MONTH:**

This month we have four books by Luqman McKingley to highlight. Thanks to his family, we have been given permission to digitize the first twenty to thirty pages of each of these books for members to read online. These books are still under copyright and can be purchased (see instructions for purchase at the end of this article).

Canopy: A Rainforest Romance, is a 719-page book, published in 1996. On the verso of the title page, it says "This book is not for sale. Donations are accepted for the Canopy Foundation which supports the development of the Dayak peoples of Central Kalimantan and conservation of the rainforests of Kalimantan." The book contains hundreds of drawings by the author. This online record >

is a preview of the book and contains only the front and back covers and the first seven chapters. This book and its companion, a screenplay of the story, were donated to the archives by Laura Paterson with this description: "The story is pure Luqman - brilliant and fantastical. The novel and screenplay were to tie into an eco-tourism project that Luqman had great plans for - also totally visionary."

Subject access points for this book are:

- Novel-fiction
- Dayak people
- Ecotourism
- Kalimantan, Indonesia

Read the first seven chapters of this beautiful book online on the Archives website. This excerpt was taken from the preface: "An Epic Dayak Saga . . . A Rainforest Romance . . . An adventure into the Ecology of Reality . . . Canopy is the adventure of a 90-year-old Dayak tracker, Sunbeam. At the end of a lifetime in pursuit of ancient treasure, he finds instead an ancient civilization Alera: A land hidden, deep beneath impenetrable rainforest canopies and mysterious mountains at the heart of Borneo."

"Alera is the land of giant Kirith whose oneness with Nature binds a fragile ecosystem where non-violence is a condition of survival. Sunbeam joins the Kirith as they battle for their lives, to save Alera from an onslaught of greed and violence--mining magnates, invading mercenaries, timber companies and demonic enemies."

The second book highlighted this month, also published by Luqman McKingley, is Adam and His Children: A Brief History of Human Life. The book contains excerpts from talks given by Bapak about Adam and creation.; compiled and edited by Luqman McKingley with numerous paintings by Midelti, the professional name of painter Rashid Carré.

Words from the back cover of the book: "The word 'Adam' does not apply to a physical human being. Adam was a primordial being without physical substance, form, name, or sex. Adam was the light, 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 the first explosion of light, through history, to the present day. Its extraordinary perspective provides remarkable answers to the questions: What is the purpose of human life on Earth?

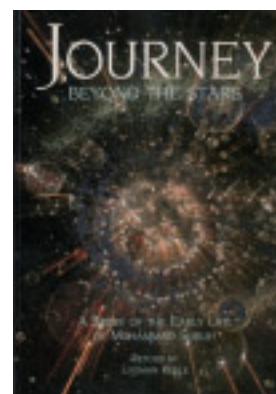
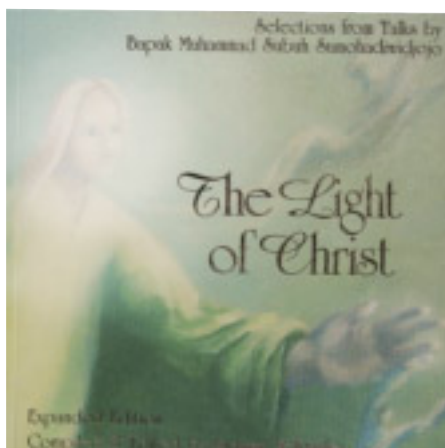
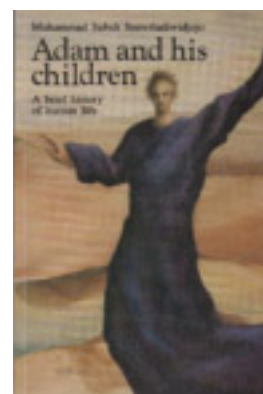
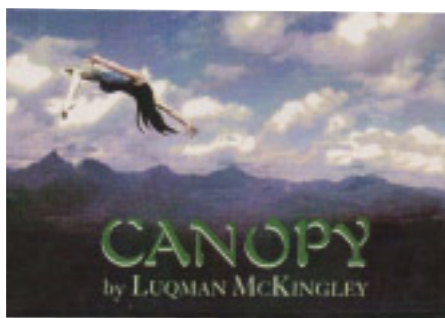
The third book is titled Journey Beyond the Stars: A Story of the Early Life of Muhammad Subuh. Retold by Luqman Keele (later changed to McKingley), in 1988, published the year after Bapak's passing.

This is the first published biographical account of the life of Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo who died on June 23, 1987. Copiously illustrated with fine pencil drawings, the book is written in a simple and vivid style which evokes the events of Subuh's early years in a way that is immediately accessible to everyone. The book has been written to be read by and to children of all ages.

The fourth book is The light of Christ published in 1997-2005, compiled and edited by Luqman McKingley, cover painting by Rashid Carré Midelti, and line drawings by Luqman McKingley.

This book was compiled by using the official translations of Bapak's Talks (Volumes 1 and 2). It contains excerpts from Bapak's talks concerning the nature, mission and meaning of the man names Jesus Christ, and of the message he brought humankind, as received by Bapak in spontaneous explanations.

These books by Luqman are under copyright by the McKingley family. If you wish to purchase a >



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copy, contact Sahlan McKingley at [sahlan78@gmail.com](mailto:sahlan78@gmail.com). Some books are available on Buy the Way Books <https://www.bythewaybooks.com> Be sure to see the videotaped interviews with Luqman McKingley made for the Memories of Bapak Project in 1999 at Wisma Subud. This video and others can be seen by subscribing to the members only Archives website. Send an email to [admin@wsaarchives.org](mailto:admin@wsaarchives.org) to request access.

Be sure to support the Subud Archives to ensure that our beautiful Subud history will be preserved for now and for future generations.

Go to this website: [https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1438251?code=wsa0777\\_thank\\_you](https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1438251?code=wsa0777_thank_you) and be sure to earmark your donation for the archives. Tune in next month for what's new on the Archives' website. ●

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## Peace, Love and Subud

*In the last issue of Subud Voice we published an article by Myriam Lewis, a first hand personal account of her life in the Subud Commune at Skymont in the 1970s.*

*We are following that up in this issue with an article by a journalist which complements Myriam's account. It is always interesting to see how others see us.*

*This article was written by and it appeared in the online magazine VIRGINIALIVING.COM*

*<http://www.virginialiving.com/peace-love-and-subud> Maggie Wolff Peterson writes...*

Nearly 40 years ago the followers of an obscure spiritual movement made the Shenandoah Valley their home.

From the roadside, there isn't much left of the commune once known as Skymont. Where there was once a lodge in which hundreds of people took their meals together, there is now only a solitary chimney. The area known as "the bowl," which was first a sports field and later a field of sunflowers, is now just a depression in the ground—home for assorted weeds and a few slender sumac trees.

The cabins, which pioneering commune members once inhabited without heat, are gone. The two-story barn, which was the favorite location for commune weddings, is also gone. What remains are a couple of frame buildings behind two strong, double-locked gates, several "no trespassing" signs and a crooked SKYMONT sign, mostly covered with duct tape.

You could live your whole life in the Shenandoah Valley and not know that at one time, hundreds of people sought out Skymont for spiritual nourishment, and many of them stayed. The property—146 acres abutting the Shenandoah River, 12 miles south of Front Royal—was originally a Christian summer camp until it closed in the 1960s and went up for sale. Its investors started leasing the property and its somewhat Spartan facilities to various groups. Robert Batchelor, an ex-Marine, was the property's on-site manager at that time.

### [A little-known spiritual movement...](#)

In 1969, a little-known spiritual movement named Subud chose Skymont as the site for its quadrennial world conference. Subud is an international spiritual philosophy that emphasizes the awakening of one's "inner self" as part of the process of finding more fulfillment in life.

The movement was started in the 1920s by a Javanese mystic who reported seeing a ball of light enter his body through his head. The man believed that he'd made contact with a great life force, and that "force" could be transferred from person to person without diminution of its strength.

The name Subud is a mixture of three Sanskrit words, and its symbol is seven concentric circles, intersected by seven spokes, which represent planes of existence. The Subud organization still exists and claims several thousand followers around the world.

According to Batchelor, Livingston Dodson, a mathematician and consultant to the U.S. Navy on nuclear weapons, chose Skymont for the conference. He was a regional chairman of Subud. "Someone showed him this summer camp that was for sale," Batchelor says. "Livingston had a >



*Jamming in an unheated cabin – note the plastic taped over the windows.*

dream, a vivid dream, about where the mountains meet the sky.” Skymont matched his ideal.

The beauty of the site remains undiminished today. Located on a bluff overlooking the Shenandoah River, Skymont is near the river’s juncture with Overall Creek, a swift, wide tributary at the bottom of a chasm spanned by a two-lane steel arch erected in 1938. Today, the Overall Run Bridge is one of only two single-arch bridges remaining in the state. When the Virginia Department of Transportation floated plans in 1990 to replace the bridge with a contemporary multi-lane span, community leaders fought the idea.

In 1969, roughly 750 Subud followers arrived at Skymont for the World Congress (Editor’s note: See correction at the end of the article. This was not a World Congress). Movement founder Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo was among the crowd.

Batchelor, whose job was to manage the event, remembers it as a crazy gathering—Woodstock without the rock stars. “In 10 days, I served 21,000 meals,” he says. “I had to be creative.” Followers slept in the gym and ate under tents. Batchelor recalls that people were collecting money, but there was “confusion about who was collecting for what purpose. There were people making business decisions who had no experience.”

#### [A shoestring operation...](#)

It was all a shoestring operation, and by the time the congress ended, the camp was bankrupt and ready to be shuttered. But many of the Subud faithful wanted to remain. According to Batchelor, 10 Subud members pooled their personal funds and bought the camp. “We were young and we were dedicated,” remembers Luzita Davila, who lived at Skymont for five years. “We just made it work.”

Today in her 60s and a resident of California, Davila found she “needed something” as a young woman, and Subud provided it. At the conference, she met the man who would become her husband. The two were married in the old gymnasium. “It was a beautiful, wonderful creation out of very little money,” Davila says. “Someone made a cake; someone made a dress.” The couple moved into what had been a camp cabin. “It was just four walls,” she says. “It was rough. It was hard living.”

That was true for everybody at the camp. The facilities were not designed for full-time, year-round occupancy. For one thing, there was no heat. “And a lot of us had come from California, where we didn’t know what winter was,” says Davila. Jobs were scarce in the nearest town, Front Royal. “You had Ph.D.’s making pizza,” Batchelor says. Additionally, there was more than a little skepticism among the locals as to what exactly was going on at Skymont. “It was the hippie aspect of things,” Davila says. “They were unsure of us.”

Ron Santmyers remembers the day in the early 1970s that he picked up a hitchhiker and drove him to Skymont. “It was back in the day that you could pick someone up and not worry about it,” Santmyers says. The rider turned out to be the actor Lewis Arquette. He had moved his family from Los Angeles to Front Royal to take part in the Subud World Congress.

When Santmyers picked up Arquette, the actor was on a break from a Broadway show in New York, where he was performing, and on his way back to Skymont. Arquette’s youngest son, David, who starred in the *Scream* movies and was formerly married to actress Courteney Cox (they divorced in 2011), was born at the commune. Lewis Arquette was also father to actors Richmond, >



*The Skymont football team.*



*Happy commune members.*

Alexis, Rosanna and Patricia.

### The kids...

Richmond Arquette, the eldest, was 6 years old when the family moved from Los Angeles to Front Royal. He remembers being among hundreds of Subud acolytes. "Subud was the inspiration," he says. "There were a lot of people and a lot of kids."

It was summertime. While the adults were busy following their bliss, the kids ran free. "I was surrounded by friends, all the time, and we had a lot of freedom," Arquette recalls. "We swam in the creek. We swam in the river." A swimming pool, empty save for some swampy green water at the bottom, was a great place to catch snapping turtles and insects. The kids invented imaginative, intricate games. "Some of them would last for weeks on end, with long story lines," says Arquette.

When others left, the Arquettes stayed. Their home was an unheated one-room cabin, with no running water. But, unlike most of the commune residents, Lewis Arquette was working in his chosen profession.

In the 1970s, he had a recurring role as J.D. Pickett in television's *The Waltons*, and would travel back and forth from Los Angeles. (Lewis Arquette's father, Cliff, was appearing during this time as Charley Weaver on the television game show *Hollywood Squares*.) During this time, Lewis Arquette was also appearing on Broadway in *Story Theater*, which performed musical adaptations of children's tales.

Other commune dwellers weren't as fortunate. "It was very hard to make a living," Davila says. Her husband commuted three hours daily to work. Nevertheless, she remembers Skymont with affection. "It was a great experience. I treasure it. I had my first two children there."

Circling the front of the property, Davila remembers, was a horseshoe driveway. The first building from the entrance was the former camp infirmary, which commune dwellers called "the frame house." Then came the lodge, where meals were served communally, next to which were tennis courts.

The most substantial building on the premises was a stone house, called "the chalet." There were also 19 cabins on the property, and eventually, a cemetery. "The land went up to a flat area with a meadow," Davila says. "There's a graveyard there. People get born. People die."

### The commune began to disintegrate in the mid-1970s...

Lack of money wore down its residents. Farming was out of the question on the rocky, red-clay ground.

"We tried everything," Davila says. "We even tried a worm farm."



*The back cover of the Skymonters album with a magnificent view of the property.*



*Last minute work on the latihan hall for Bapak's visit in 1970. (Photo by Rachman Cantrell)*



*Bapak gives his first talk on his visit to Skymont in 1970. (Photo by Rachman Cantrell)*

In the late 1990s, an investor named Alan Fitzwater bought Skymont, renovated the three houses and two cottages that were still there, and tried to revive the site as a bed and breakfast. Fitzwater also helped lead a campaign that saved the Overall Run Bridge. But the B&B never materialized. Cabins on parts of the former property are now available for rent through Front Royal Outdoors and Skymont Vacation Rentals.

In November of 2006, the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved \$11.3 million in funding to construct a new bridge over Overall Run. The bridge was completed in 2008.

The scenery that once enchanted Subud adherents remains as beautiful as ever and may be appreciated by anyone who ventures across the gorge at Overall Creek. The pilgrims are long gone, but if you gaze at the canopy of trees above and the stream below, you will understand why they came.

### Skymont – Comments from Members

Skymont was a good and loving experience for me. I will always treasure the wisdom and spirit that made its mark in my life. *Reva Raina H Snyder*

My brother and I would walk up there and play as kids with the kids there it was fun always people play music picking out a song we use to swim in the river jump off a rope swing. *Buddy Spenser*

I will always remember Skymont as a very special place on my journey during my stay in 1974 till 79. *Halim Korzybski*

It was good, and for me only one full round of seasons, as I had never experienced them before - up close and personal, cold and wet! It was an honor and a life changer to participate in both births and deaths, and celebrations from all different religions. And, for an only child, living intentionally with so many, striving for our mutual success, joy and well-being was also a life changer. I was the cook and kitchen manager in my year there. To see photos, go to the folder Skymont on my website: [www.sulfiatimagnuson.photography](http://www.sulfiatimagnuson.photography). *Sulfiati Magnuson*

Fannntastic Experience. Yes it was tough but it was good, yes it got run down but we fixed things, yes the money was short but we kept things going, yes the well went dry but we managed, yes we were weather naive but we figured it out, yes we had our detractors in the neighborhood, in town, & in Subud but it was all good. as Vida Dodson often said "We had none of the necessities but all of the luxuries." *Luzita*

### Clarification

Skymont was not the venue for a Subud world congress. That happened the next year in Indonesia.

The gathering took place because of a visit from the founder of Subud, Bapak. Some called it 'Bapak's congress'. Many Subud members converged to hear him speak and do our spiritual exercise with him. It was very powerful and an experience most of us will never forget! Rachman

### Songs by Hamid Camp

'The Highway Is Here' 2. 'All That I Need' 3. 'Seven Circles' 4. 'The Highway Is Here' 5. 'All That I Need' 6. 'Seven Circles' (Most available on YouTube.)

## STORIES ABOUT MAS ADJI



*Luxury guest accommodation for Bapak visit.  
(Photo by Rachman Cantrell)*



*Children play Mother Goose. (Photo by  
Rachman Cantrell)*

*The editor writes... In recent issues we have included writings about Mas Adji. First there were memoirs by Dachlan Cartwright and then in the last issue we had accounts from members in New Zealand. In this issue we are going to introduce a series of article about Mas Adji from Rasunah Marsden's memoir. She writes...*

Dear Harris

Coincidentally, as you were getting Dachlan Cartwright's *Memoirs of Adji* ready for the November issue, I was assembling a few excerpts on the same topic to send to you.

What i had decided to do was to publish a few **excerpts** of my memoirs; that way only those who wanted to read the entire set could download them.

Adji did tell me to write & he knew I was keeping track of what he had been saying, & had already seen published articles about him in *Subud Voice* which I had written while he was alive.

The last time I saw him in person, in Bali for the Subud World Congress, 2001, he asked, "Are you still writing, Rasunah?" I continued to send notes to him while he was still alive.

So it is after all, his request which I felt responsible to honor. The full collection was created prior to Adji's 8<sup>th</sup> year selamatan in 2007 and revised in 2018 as per Dachlan Cartwright's suggestions.

I am attaching 3 excerpts from my collection of *Memoirs of Mas Adji* which can be put into *Subud Voice*. The first version is a verbatim talk.

The second excerpt, *Singsong at Leonard's*, is a collection of direct quotes and notes taken on another evening spent at Mas Adji's. Leonard also already has the full manuscript & I sent him a copy of this excerpt that i intended to publish, recently.

The third version contains notes from the World Congress in Bali. Hopefully these can be published sequentially (in separate issues), rather than all in one issue of *Subud Voice*.

A more complete collection may be made available as a formal publication in future if someone wants to take it on, & in case there are size issues, I am sending the larger file with the next email.

Your notes, which were sent some years ago, are also included in the full version. With regard to the excerpts, if you decide not to place a link for download of the whole publication, it can be mentioned that those who would like to read the full collection can send an email directly to me. Either way, you will have a full version as it stands. Thanks, Rasunah

The next article in this issue is the first of Rasunah's excerpts... If you would like to read Rasunah's complete *Memoir of Mas Adji* please contact her at [rasunah@shaw.ca](mailto:rasunah@shaw.ca)



## Talk by Mas Adji

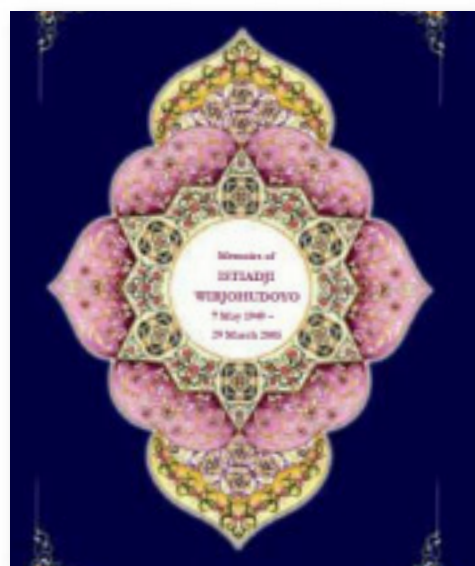
Excerpt by Rasunah Marsden, from *Memoirs of Istiadji Wirjohudoyo* 7 May 1949 – 29 March 2005.

Monday May 20, 1985. *Talk by Mas Adji to Leonard Kibble, Rasunah Marsden & Dachlan Cartwright. (Adji stopped talking when there was a disruption, likely when others arrived to visit and he went to welcome them in.—RM)*

*Adji would ask some of his friends to write some of what he said down verbatim but we were fairly hopeless at being ready to do things like this at the drop of a hat. Here are some notes of verbatim remarks I took on one occasion when Adji was with a couple of friends. At that time, his English was not as good as his Indonesian, but it was always the feeling of the delivery which delighted everyone...*

Subud in fact is actually a blessing from God for humanity, a blessing which can not only be written about but can be experienced by anyone who can receive it.

If you read in the holy books that God sent a messenger & God tried to teach people. But the



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people changed & so God changed the method.

It's really necessary for me, if I plant a seed I must continue (to look after it.)

Subud is like a course, you have to give an introduction. Sometime in a group they thought about themselves but not the whole of Subud.

But it is God's will. I met someone who thought he was clever who was maybe upper class, but his cleverness was not used to develop Subud.

But with Machmud Branting, his mind stopped him but with latihan, little by little the latihan grew.

Anyone who has experienced about death – the point that life stops, the life is increasing, you jump to another state of life. That's why we need to have latihan – the chance for everyone to receive God's guidance. If you read the holy books – for mind.

But in Subud if you are lucky to have experience... myself had impatience. To teach ourselves to have patience is hard work. But through latihan, I found my ability to have patience increasing. Because when you don't think you only surrender but in 5 months instruction from God to you – you only receive.

If you go to a school to learn something there's a method – in the education system when you find someone to talk or give explanations but in latihan it's the other way around.

But this is a sweet course – you can feel God's company in your life – you don't feel alone ever – you can see that your life is like a tree growing or life as a laboratory.

You have a lot of things in Subud, but the key is God's blessing but to have it you have to be patient. In school you can make a regulation for more books or lessons, but not in the latihan.

*Now I have to change, about my journey...*

To begin with I like to say that before I left my country, I already talked with my friends about Subud abroad – how is it. I felt I would like to have a journey around Europe, Australia, the Middle East, everywhere, I want to see the possibility to really spread Subud.

There was a letter from the UK from my friends asking if I have time to come & visit them. I was confused, in my age, I must be serious to think about my family and country but at the same time ... a dream to look after all my friends & accompany them. When I was confused my Grandfather said "Just Go. Don't think too much. Just go." Ok, I'll try my best.

To build it you also have to build confidence. You have to make a survey. And then I said to my Grandfather, I won't be long, maybe 3 weeks. Finally, I was at the airport, & I said goodbye (to) my sisters & to Ibu Rahayu, I won't be long.

Can you imagine I have no return ticket & to get a visa, I have to really make an effort to find a way out.

To go to England is for me like going to Jogja. I had my first encouragement from my Grandfather when he said "Just go" & it was arranged easily to go to England.

Secondly, I got encouragement from Subud, I needed – not only for myself, I needed to see Subud.

The 3rd encouragement was from all my friends in England. We had an organization, not really a youth club, (it was called) the "Golden Bowl" ( I'll tell you about it later). For me it is like sweet cattle, the ticket was from them. They were not very rich. How could I say no to them?

The 4th encouragement is my love.

My journey was good (on a small bus – Garuda.) I was really happy to see Heathrow. I got a month's stay permit.

When I got to Gatwick it was really cold, but I didn't feel really cold because my heart was warm.

The day I arrived the crowd had started. We had a nice cup of tea. Within 3 days I had a party.

We made about 5000 pounds profit to sell the house that the Golden Bowl had bought.

I had the idea not to accept the situation, I said to Miftah, "I don't like to jump on the old car, especially in winter."



*When I was  
confused my  
Grandfather said,  
'Just Go. Don't think  
too much. Just go.'*





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## Frances Madden Concert

*Osanna Vaughn writes...*

On Saturday, November 28, 9:30am Central European Time, Dylan and I sat down to watch the live stream of Frances Madden's concert in Sydney, launching her new album, Beautiful World. We projected it on the lounge wall, connected my lap top to our Bose sound system, and I can only say: it was great! Something special about knowing that we were watching the event as it was actually happening on the other side of the world.

Frances played many of the delightful songs from the new album (from [www.francesmadden.com](http://www.francesmadden.com)), as well as older favourites and a couple of covers. When I wrote to congratulate her she replied: "Thank you very much for joining us for the livestream show last weekend! I'm glad to hear that the quality was good and it's lovely to know that you and Dylan were watching in and enjoyed the show. Indeed, the album was partly financed with the grant from SESI [the World Congress 2018 SESI Project Fund]. It has been released here in Australia, and in New Zealand by ABC Music. It will also be released in Japan next year by Universal Music. We are approaching labels in Europe and the USA and are hoping to release it there soon as well."

Congratulations Frances! We hope there may be more concerts streamed live in the future, and invite other Subud artists around the world who would like to share similar events.

*This article first appeared in Subud World News. [www.subudworldnews.com](http://www.subudworldnews.com)*

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## Rare 310-year-old violin stolen

*From the Los Angeles Times, December 8 2020. Theft from Subud Gallery owner...*

The FBI is in hot pursuit this Christmas season of a thief who may have music on his mind: A rare 18th century violin has gone missing from a Los Feliz residence.

The stolen violin is a 1710 Amati, a glossy, curvaceous object made from curly maple and alpine spruce that was crafted by one of the most important in musical instrument history, Hieronymus Amati II. It's in excellent condition and, according to auction records, sold for just over half a million dollars in 2013 — it would likely be worth more than \$700,000 today.

The 310-year-old violin belongs to Rowland Weinstein, who is not a musician but an art dealer who splits his time between Los Angeles and San Francisco. His Weinstein Gallery, specializing in surrealism and abstraction from 1920 through World War II, is based in San Francisco. The violin, which he allowed musician friends and professional violinists to play, was in his white Tesla, parked outside his Los Feliz home, when someone stole the vehicle from his property Dec. 8.

Weinstein bought the violin in October 2013 at , an online auction house specializing in stringed instruments and bows. According to Tarisio's records, Weinstein paid \$507,436 at a London sale. He said he had it insured. Such rare instruments appreciate annually, according to Tarisio director Jason Price, adding that the 1710 Amati would likely sell for \$700,000-\$900,000 today.

Weinstein — who is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the violin's safe return — said he is "heartbroken."

"I'm responsible for a piece of history and that piece of history got away from me," Weinstein said. "It's so fragile. My biggest fear is that someone who doesn't know what they have will put it in the wrong environment and it will get damaged or destroyed."

*This article has been excerpted from a report in the Los Angeles Times. To read the full report <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/story/2020-12-24/rare-violin-stolen-from-los-feliz-home> ●*



## WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO TELL ME?

*Sebastian Paemen writes...*

I live about 20 minutes away from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, one of the best museums in the UK. So often I come across objects there that 'speak to me.' Not literally of course. What I mean is, it is like they are expressing something about the time in which they were created and about the people who made these objects. Intuitively I have an awareness of what it is about, but unfortunately this doesn't always get transferred to my brain, so I can understand it rather than feel it.

I sometimes play this game. I walk around in a peaceful state and try to sense what these wonderful objects on display 'have to tell me'. Sometimes it is relatively clear, at other times it remains mysterious. Early and Proto Renaissance art tells me about devotion, innocence,

inner peace, refinement of feeling and beauty in praise of God. It is an introverted art which transcends the material world. This art seems to me to have a strong feminine quality. Islamic art has got this refinement of feeling and beauty to honour God too.

In contrast for instance to the Greek art of the classical period. These statues and vases tell me about a society in which people were more outwardly focused. They were more interested in this world than in the next one. They were proud of their human strength and achievements and they loved to compete with each other. It is a very masculine art.

The human body, particularly the male body, these Greeks greatly admired and they saw it as the highest form of perfection in this world. What strikes me about them is the great strength they must have had. I often have this particular feeling of width, strength and power in my chest when looking at their art, which I quite like. Bapak told Rofé that the Greeks were of the vegetable level (higher than most of us nowadays), and that humankind in those days strove towards perfection.

Roman art expresses a lot of power and strength too but it feels more materialistic, and narrower, than the classical Greek art. The Romans were a more practical and earthy people. Builders, engineers and organisers, really.

There is a small room in the Ashmolean with contemporary art. When I walk into there, I think I can sense a feeling of emptiness, pain and confusion. Maybe desperation too. And an awareness of people who have turned their backs to God. The contrast with Medieval Christian art and Islamic art could not be bigger.



*Fra Angelico The Annunciation, 1434.*

## SOME PEOPLES' STORIES

*SICA informs...*

SICA is proud to announce a publication of works by Subud poets entitled *Some Peoples' Stories*. The 29 poets in the book all participated in SICA's Zoomuse poetry readings during 2020. Zoomuse was the idea of author, poet and riddle-master, Emmanuel Williams, and brings viewers an ongoing event happening twice a month – normally the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday. The schedule unless otherwise specified is: 11am Los Angeles, 8pm Paris, and 6am *the next morning* in Sydney, Australia. **NOTE: Zoomuse dates are listed on the SWN Events page.**

If people click on it will take them to a zoom waiting room and the host will admit them almost immediately. We start admitting people 15 minutes before the reading starts.

Print copies of *Some Peoples' Stories* can be ordered through Lulu. Just go . If you have any issue, the book's ISBN number is 9781716304514. Print copies are US\$15 each plus shipping. >



The book title, by the way, was chosen by Emmanuel Williams from a poem by Adrienne Thomas which is included in the book (see page 88).

This is a free give-away. It's the entire book, the same as the print version, and the only ask is that people consider making a donation to SICA. To do so, please go to:

<https://www.sica-subud.org/zoomuse> and hit the DONATE button.

To help support SICA activities like Zoomuse, please consider a small donation to SICA at:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/sica>

## Other People's Stories

*Harris Smart writes...*

This is a really great anthology by Subud poets. Emmanuel Williams has done many over the years and this one is outstanding. There is a reality to the poetry here that really burns.

These poets have something to say. They are not just tossing words around. There is a deep urgent feeling to the poems.

Maybe it's the pandemic, maybe it's the political instability in the world, maybe it's personal issues. Whatever it is, it seems that poets are speaking with more urgent reality than ever before.

The essence of this is well captured in the poem **Other People's Stories** by Adrienne Thomas which gives the anthology its title...

*Some peoples' stories, told beyond words  
Would kill the uninitiated  
And burn the brains of the righteous  
Not to mention the good.  
Tales of the unexpected  
Told in a room with white walls and curtains  
Bouncing off the windows and doors  
Creeping down the corridors  
And hissing out into the street  
Alarming the passers by  
Who thought it was safe to come out.  
Dogs bark at their approach  
And cats wail and vanish  
Mothers pull their children to safety  
And the wind tries to carry them away  
But they fall back to earth  
And haunt us*

## An Enterprising Group

*By Hanafi & Levana Fraval from slides and copious notes from Lucas & Farah Hess...*

In writing these Centerprise articles every month I am becoming increasingly aware of how much we can teach each other. For example, where areas like California and Britain own all the Subud houses in their region or country, it can be easier to build and hold a maintenance fund amounting to 5% or more of the replacement cost of all the buildings they own. Another example is how best practices can be deployed in all the groups in the area. The Centerprise Slack site has been built for hall managers and group chairs to share operational and ownership best practices and solutions.

Subud California at Sacramento with 30 members from a wide region is an example of a resourceful and enterprising group. It has continuous center committee and regional Council participation, monthly business meetings and a commitment to financial stability. Although the group dates back to the 1950s, its current home was found in 1995 and purchased with savings from the group and, mainly, the California Regional Council. Originally a residence, it was converted to a day care facility in the mid-1950s.

When the group purchased the building, it had a Counseling Service named Insight in Action that dealt with supervised, court ordered family visitation meetings. The daycare had closed but the building had all the necessary equipment, permits and licenses to continue to operate. Large enough for latihan, the business plan showed that this ongoing rental would repay Subud California for the loan as well as providing for maintenance. The group did not have to rely on member donations. To read the complete report go to:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Sacramento-Centerprise.pdf>



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SubudSpaces is sponsoring a Zoom presentation from Lucas and Farah Hess about the Subud Sacramento House and Centerprise.

The Zoom presentation will take place on Friday, February 5th, at 12:00pm PST / 3:00 EST / 7:00 AM AEDT. The link to the Zoom presentation may be obtained by emailing Raynard von Hahn at:

[rvh@genesislaw.ca](mailto:rvh@genesislaw.ca)

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## PETER MARK RICHMAN

*Peter Mark Richman has passed away. Howard Richman shares this obituary about his father. Our deepest sympathies go out to Helen Richman, and to their children, Howard, Lucas, Orien, Kelly and Roger...*

Peter Mark Richman was opened in Subud in 1959 by John Bennett in New York City. Shortly afterwards he became a helper. Of his many activities in Subud, he was proud to have been able to shoot the movie of Bapak going to Disneyland in 1963 and happy to edit in time for Bapak to see it before he left.

Peter Mark Richman, the acclaimed actor, author, playwright and artist, died of natural causes at his home in Woodland Hills, California at 10:00 AM on January 14, 2021. He was 93.

A true Renaissance man, Mr. Richman leaves a legacy of creative endeavors spanning over eight decades of work in the performing and visual arts. However, it was for his marriage to actress Helen Richman and for his roles as father and grandfather of which he was most proud.

The son of Benjamin, a painting and paper-hanging contractor and Yetta Dora (Peck), Mr. Richman was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 16, 1927. After graduating from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science as a licensed pharmacist in two states, he found his first opportunities on the New York stage as a member of the Actors Studio, starring in Calder Willingham's "End as a Man." In addition to tours and productions across the U.S., he appeared on Broadway in "A Hatful of Rain" and "Masquerade" and portrayed Jerry in over 400 performances of Edward Albee's original NY production of "The Zoo Story."

William Wyler brought him west for the classic film, "Friendly Persuasion," which led to other films such as "Black Orchid," "The Strange One," "Naked Gun 2 1/2" and "Friday the 13th Part 8." He starred as Nick Cain in his own NBC series, "Cain's Hundred," and in over 500 TV guest star appearances on such shows as "The Twilight Zone," "The Outer Limits," "Murder She Wrote," "Fantasy Island," and "Star Trek the Next Generation." He had recurring roles on "Three's Company" (as the Reverend Snow) and "Beverly Hills 90210" as well as co-starring roles on series such as "Dynasty" and "Longstreet."

ANTA and the Actors Studio produced several of his one-act plays and, after mounting his critically-acclaimed one-man play, "4 Faces," in Los Angeles and New York, he starred in the film version of the piece. His play, "A Medal for Murray," received its world premiere with the Beit Lessin Theatre in Israel, garnering raves throughout the country during its two-year run. Published novel and short-story collections in Mr. Richman's catalog include "Hollander's Deal" and "The Rebirth of Ira Masters." Also an accomplished painter, Mr. Richman had seventeen critically acclaimed one-man exhibitions.

Mr. Richman served as a long-time board member for several charities and, in 1990, the Motion Picture and Television Fund awarded the Silver Medallion to him for outstanding humanitarian achievement. He was also honored in that year with the Sybil Brand Humanitarian Award from the Jeffrey Foundation.

In Mr. Richman's own words from his autobiography, *I Saw A Molten White Light*: "God has been good to me, in everything. Through all the struggle and suffering, progress has been made...God put this sacred and mysterious place inside all of us -- our inner life or soul -- that has the capacity to come alive again -- to wake up from its sleepy torpor once the button is pushed for the door to open. And when the door is open, most of the time the sun is warm, and the birds are singing -- and all things are possible."

Mr. Richman is survived by his wife of 67 years, Helen Richman; five children, Howard Richman and his wife, Cherie, Kelly Lester and her husband, Loren, Lucas Richman and his wife, Debbie, Orien Richman and his wife, Alevé, and Roger Richman; as well as six grandchildren, Jenny, Lily, Max, Julia, Oliver and Danica. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, funeral services will be held privately and at the convenience of Mr. Richman's family. Memorial contributions in honor of Mr. Richman can be made to the Motion Picture Television Fund (MPTF).

To read the full eulogy, go to:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Peter-Mark-Richman.pdf>

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“ A true Renaissance man...”

# EULOGY FOR DAD

*On behalf of the family, Alex Blauensteiner read this tribute to his father at Roland Blauensteiner's funeral service in Brisbane. We are grateful for the permission to reproduce it in Subud Voice.*

On behalf of my family, many thanks to everyone for coming today to remember and celebrate our Dad, Roland, or Opa as he became affectionately known.

We realise not everyone could attend because of COVID restrictions – thank you also to those watching via the live streaming and recording.

Dad's 7 brothers and sisters, 10 nieces and nephews, and 15 great nieces and nephews in Austria can't be here today, but they are definitely with us in spirit.

Dad wanted a simple and happy occasion today without too much fuss. We're going to follow his wishes. Although, we did put our foot down when he suggested a few months ago that a cardboard coffin could be a good idea.

Dad was not perfect, but he touched and helped many people throughout his life. The beautiful words many people have shared with us have been a powerful reminder of this ability Dad had.

He had a remarkable 82 years and made the most of them. When other people in retirement were putting their feet up, Dad was continuing to "find" people to help.

At 75 he somewhat adopted two Iraqi refugees, Barakat and his daughter Fatima, who became very dear to him. Their story is one you could make a movie about, and Dad was still helping them during the last few days of his life.

Today, the family would like to share a little about Dad's life and some of the lessons he imparted on us:

To read Alex's complete tribute to his Dad and learn what those lessons were, click here:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Roland-Blauensteiner-Eulogy.pdf>



## STILL NO ROOM AT THE INN

*Mardijah Simpson writes...*

Homelessness should be a big issue around Christmas time. Still "No room at the inn". Hopefully the coronavirus has made authorities more aware of how urgent and crucial homes are for everybody.

### **No place like home**

Last spring I watched a house martin  
weave a nest, round as a thrown bowl,  
in exquisite symmetry,  
balanced on a bare branch  
of the lemon scented gum.

Then in the night the wild winds blew.  
Next morning the nest had vanished,  
no sign, it was nowhere.  
I could not believe it had ever clung  
to that round smooth branch.

"Foxes have holes  
and the birds of the air have nests,  
but the son of man hath not where  
to lay his head"  
Nor woman her head.

Walking up Martin Place  
blank black hoardings hide another bank.  
All signs of last year's homeless camp -  
gone. No beds, no blankets, no home  
no safe place, no one.

Where did they go  
all those lonely people  
those wanderers

flotsam/jetsam/ scraps and  
crumbs of society?

Under the arches on Eddy Avenue.  
Tucked against stone walls  
are bed rolls, blankets, bags.  
A man stretched, asleep in the shadows  
beyond the bus stops – waits.

Every year high in my tree  
the magpies re-weave their nest.  
In the jumbled basket of twigs  
the hen rides out the storm winds' swing  
till the chicks are safely cradled.

High above the town near the showground  
by the lookout onto the river  
a small haven bloomed under the tall trees.  
Until show time.  
then the council chucked them out.

The broke's camp broken - the homeless moved on.  
They disappeared into the shadows, the hills,  
women and children sheltered in cars,  
the fearful and their dogs vanished into caves  
the disabled into despair.

Summer is fine for camping  
young people take off to the mountains  
and lie under the stars  
but when you are old and stiff  
you worry about next winter.

# THE JOURNEY OF LITTLE TWIG

## An inspirational children's story

Written by Lynnelle Stewart (Subud USA) and Rosanna Mount (Subud UK)

Ruth Taylor

This inspiring and moving story about heroism and self discovery is beautifully told, with delightful illustrations that capture the inner and outer journey of Little Twig. This is a wonderful gift to current and future generations. Thank you, Lynnelle and Rosanna.

Victoria Stiles

A story of courage and determination. The illustrations are magnificent, colorful, bright and depict the story so well. This book could be used in any classroom...

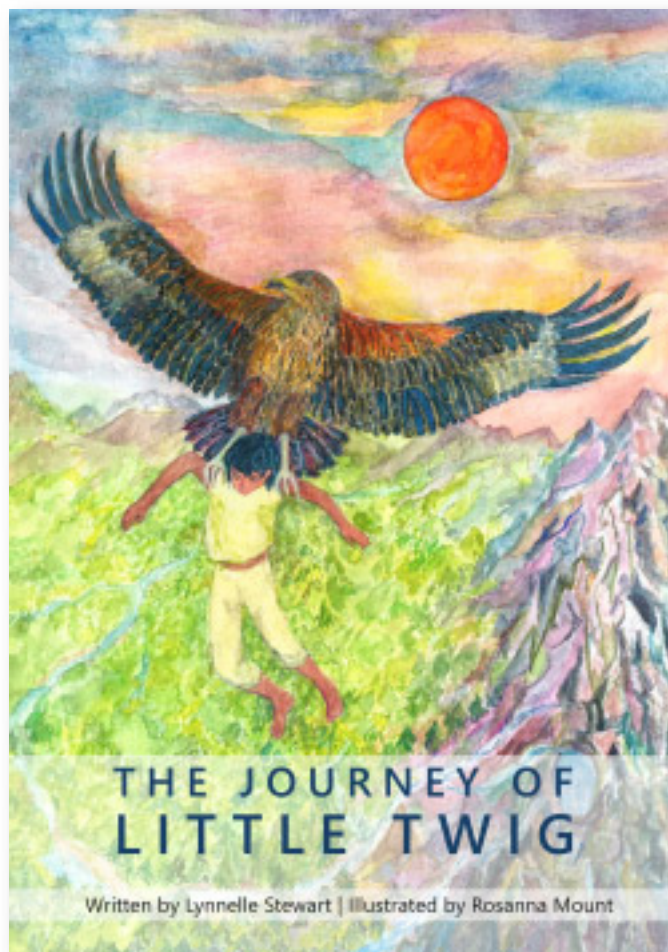
Lucy Houbart

I think it is a book that gives inspiration and comfort to both adults and children...could be read many times over without losing the impact of its powerful message.

From Canada...

A story written from the soul that will leave its imprint on all who join Little Twig in his quest to save his people and discover his true self. *The Journey of Little Twig* will delight both "our wondrous children and their wise elders". I hope it is the first of a series.

This is a magnificently told story of a courageous young man. The illustrations are colorful bright and help tell the story of Little Twig. As a former teacher I would highly recommend this book! It would be an excellent addition to any classroom! If you are looking for a gift for a young person this is a perfect gift!!! I highly recommend this book!!



**NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON**

The creation of *The Journey of Little Twig* is a harmonious and cooperative project involving the talents of several SUBUD members. It is available on Amazon in countries around the world as a paperback book, currently in English.

PLEASE help us build interest, and support sales, by POSTING A POSITIVE REVIEW on Amazon. ●

## **NEW!!** They Were There: *The Best of Subud Voice* Volume 3

Compiled by Ilaina Lennard

- \* Early meetings with Bapak
- \* The Charismatics and the Quakers
- \* The Whatcombe House story
- \* Advice from Bapak about sexual relationships
- \* When the sexual act is moved by the soul
- \* Mas Sudarto's experience
- \* My childhood as Bapak's son: Mas Harjono describes his early life
- \* Konrad Arifin's extraordinary journey beyond this world and much, much more...

To order the book (£12 plus postage), click the link, [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) then type 23595226 into the search box, then follow the on-screen prompts to the shopping basket, and set preferred payment method, delivery/billing address(es) and postage rate.



# New Link for Subud Library

Vernon Contessa writes...

Hi Harris:

I hope all is well with you and yours!

I have noticed that the link to the Subud Library website which use to appear in Subud Voice has been missing from the past several issues.

Would it be possible to start including this link again in subsequent issues going forward?

If so, the preferred link is now as follows:

<https://subudlibrary.net>

I appreciate your help

Thank you,

Vernon

[How to register for access to the Subud Library website](#)

Access to the Subud Library is restricted to Subud members only. A username and password are required to access the website.

To register:

1. Go online to the library site <https://subudlibrary.net>
2. On the Home page click the Subud Library link.
3. On the Library Security Check page click the click here link in the last paragraph to open a blank registration form ( see graphic of the English form below )
4. If your preferred language is other than English, click the appropriate language link at the top of the blank form to select the form in your language.
5. Fill out all fields on the form and click the green Send Request button.
6. The form is automatically emailed to the webmaster who will create a user account for you based on the information in your registration form, and email you ( in the language of your choice ) with your username and password and instructions for accessing the site.

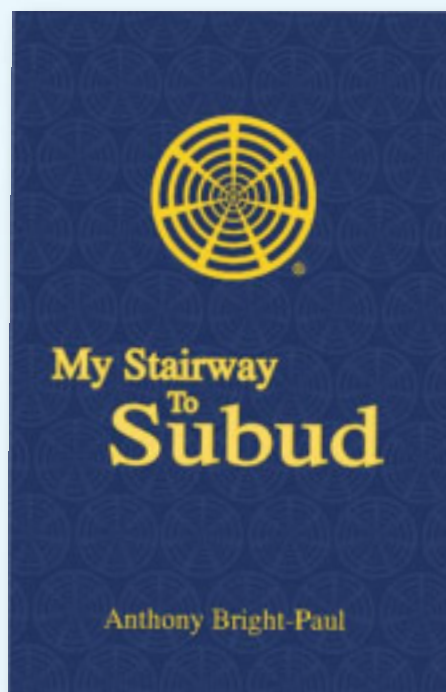
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Much of *My Stairway to Subud* first appeared as the record of a young man in the early 1950s searching for values and inner understanding. At various times he was an admirer of Mahatma Gandhi, a student with the Sri Ramakrishna Vedanta Society, then a follower of G.I.Gurdjieff for seven years under the direction of J.G.Bennett, author of *The Dramatic Universe* and *What are we living for?* – His search reached an explosive climax when Pak Subuh, the founder of the international spiritual movement Subud, came to England in 1957.

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