

Your Subud Australia E-News will continue in February 2009 with a new editor - you perhaps? Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this first year of the E-News, you make it possible!
Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Melbourne Congress and have a wonderful holiday season,
Sebastian N

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

NOMINATE YOURSELF TO SERVE

This Congress ends my two-year term as Chair. There will be an election for a new Chair. We will get the best possible results for our community if a range of people nominate for this position.

Why nominate? I think there's only one good reason: to serve. Subud Australia runs on volunteers, and if no-one volunteers, Subud Australia will grind to a halt. Therefore, as it used to say on those Army recruitment posters:

WE NEED YOU

Now... I've noted in the past that many people seem somewhat reluctant to volunteer. So here are some clues to the job, that might help you overcome any hesitations you might have:

1 It's not all that hard

In the first place, unlike most local groups, Subud Australia has a paid bookkeeper and a paid office manager. That means the administration is well taken care of. Second, the "group" you are serving—the Council—are all helpers or chairs themselves, and so tend to approach meetings in a very business-like way. Third, you're the Chair, for goodness sake! That means you run the meetings and delegate all the work to others. Do you follow?

2 Almost everybody is really nice to you

Let me guess: you're really concerned about that word "almost", aren't you? And it is true that that every year you might have field say three fiery emails per year. But that's only .0001% of your time. The rest of the time, you get to bask in the glow of everybody being really nice to you. ("Thank you for doing this job.")

3 It's all about people

Can anyone do this job? There are a few skills. They are not necessarily business skills, or financial skills. In my view, the key skills are:

- You like communicating

90% of the job is about talking (and even more important: listening), and writing. You have to like communicating, and you have to do it fairly well

- You can set boundaries

You have to be confident enough to set some boundaries: how long discussion goes on in meetings; what behaviours are okay or not okay; and internal boundaries between what you want, and what the role demands of you. People like boundaries, and you'll get a lot of support in doing this, but people can't support you if you're not willing to do this in the first place.

- You can put your head up above the tall grass

In other words: you can take the long view, the broad view, and see the connection between what you are doing now, and five years down the track, or the effect it might have on other parts of the community.

- You can see two sides to every decision, and mediate between them

The best decisions are the ones you don't make yourself. The best decisions are one's that are reached by a broad consensus. If a lot of people arrive at a similar conclusion at the same time, it's better informed, and more likely to turn into action. That means you have to be able to look at different sides of an issue, and you can help the different sides come together to an agreed way forward.

These are primarily people skills, not technical skills. So if you like working with people, instead of spreadsheets or legal documents, this is a good job for you.

Finally, there's a payoff: You'll learn something. You get to be the Chair of voluntary association of 450 people, and for most of us, that's not what we do in our day job. So you get an experience you wouldn't otherwise have, and learn things you wouldn't otherwise learn. Useful things.

Best

David W

Outgoing Chair

PS: The National Helpers would love to know about your nomination BEFORE Congress... so avoid the last minute rush.

GROUP NEWS

Sydney – Savana S

* Nov 9 we held a cupcake sale to coincide with the ever-expanding Newtown Festival. We opened up the side doors of the hall so neighbours and passers by could have a peek and purchase a cupcake and drink. We had some encouraging comments and handed over Subud info leaflets to anyone interested. Even had one customer who was originally opened in Bali stumble upon us. It was a good exercise in opening up to the local community and we hope to do more in the future.

* The visit from the International Helpers was a great boost to our group. We had the luxury of their company for a full three days before they went to the Sydney Northshore group and everyone who came along felt the benefits. We continue to love them despite the fact that they poached a valuable member of our committee.

* The Sydney Group will be inviting other groups around Australia to join us in a "KnitOff" in 2009. This will be a SICA sponsored competition whereby all groups can enter by knitting (or sewing) a rug, blanket, throw, shawl or quilt as a group project. The entries will be judged and displayed around Australia with a view to selling them via a silent auction process. The money raised will go to a Susila Dharma project. After the products have toured Australia, we will take them to the World Congress in New Zealand to display and invite further bids to purchase. Our hope is to have fun while creating a focal point for community building within groups as well as creating a sense of connection between groups and with our national/international community. We hope all groups will take part! We will be promoting this activity at the Melbourne Congress so watch out for us. In the meantime, any inquiries can be addressed to Vivienne J: vivjac@optusnet.com.au

* Our YearEnd party will be held Dec 22 at Callan Park in Balmain. Anyone in the neighbourhood is welcome to attend. Email any inquiries to the Subud Sydney List.

Love to all over the Christmas/New Year break and hope to see you at congress.

Perth – Rohanna H, Bavali H

Many thanks to Rohan for his kind donation of a beautiful tea trolley - it has already been used several times and will save much running to and fro from the kitchen.

We raised \$111 towards Susilawati's education at the school in Rungan Sari, from Alfiah's gorgeous soup and the marmalades. Great result!

Liliana S's launch of her new children's book 'Heipparallaa' was on Sunday 9th November, at Fremantle Children's Literature Centre.

Don't miss the 6 Daly kids (aged 2-12), busking on their violins at the Midland Farmers' market or Fremantle markets at the weekends.

Congratulations to two of Abdurachman and Rohana M's grandchildren in Sri Lanka, Ananda and Devyani (12 and 10). Together with a dozen schoolfriends they have formed a kids fun(d) raising group calling themselves the Double Happy Daredevils.

They believe that when you give you receive, creating double happiness- and they want the world to be a happier place. To date they have raised Rs 52,000 (US\$500) towards the cost of meals, toys and stationery for the Deaf and Blind School in Ratmalan. Well done and we send them lots of warm wishes for their future fund raising efforts.

Perth group has run a couple of meetings after Sunday latihan this November, to workshop proposals for the coming Congress. Sophia B. led us in conflict mapping at one meeting, to help the group develop clarity about shared issues, needs and concerns, and this helped us move quickly to a consensus statement.

Congratulations to Bavali, who has been awarded a scholarship by the Dept. of Child Protection to do a graduate certificate in Child Protection next year at UWA.

Subud Sydney Northshore - Luthfiah H

International Helper Visit

Subud Northshore was very fortunate to have four international helpers visit on November 23. The group included Robert G from Sri Lanka, Sugandi P from Indonesia, Judy G from New Zealand and Asmaniah F from Australia (Canberra). The Helpers shared news and a sense of Subud globally, with lots of cheer and good stories from their travels around the world since the Innsbruck Congress where they were installed as this Zone's International Helpers.

They were greeted after their arrival Saturday night from activities at Newtown, at a dinner with the Committee and Dewan of the Northshore group, along with their families, which was held at the Madden's home. The following morning a short meeting and kedjiwaan session was held for the Northshore Helper group and committee at the Munting and Stewart residence.

The official activities began at the Mt Colah hall at 2:30pm. Invites had also been issued to the Central Coast members, Woollongong and Newtown. About 25 men and women attended a simultaneous latihan followed by testing and sharing amongst the members. A wonderful spread was laid for afternoon tea, donated by the Northshore women and enjoyed in a close gathering of friendship.

All members who attended, and also your committee and helpers, felt very blessed by the lessons and support that came as a result of the Latihan and testing shared with the helpers. Their warmth, grace and humour made the visit both heartwarming and enjoyable and very valuable for all who attended and for the future of Subud Northshore. Thank you to Asmaniah, Judy, Robert and Sugandi!

Adelaide South – Subagio

MOSLEM TEARS SHED FOR A JEW.

A RECEIVING POEM

I am not a poet, but a receiving poem had made me the winner of The Editor's Choice Award in an International Poetry Competition.

This poem came into my head, as the news of the assassination of Israeli's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, was flashed in front of me on TV, on the fifth of November 1995.

Instantaneously as the news was broken, I jumped off the sofa and got onto the computer, with tears running freely down my cheek I wrote down sentence after sentence that streamed into my brain.

Three years later quite casually I entered this poem in an International Poetry Competition, and then I really had to stretch my credulity to believe that my poem was the winner of Editor's Choice Award and is published in International Poetry Library Book "THE LIQUID MIRROR".

Me, a Javanese engineer the winner of an International (English) Poetry Award?

It has to be a mini-miracle!

As if my credulity had not been stretched far enough, I received an invitation from the Board of Directors and Advisory Committee of The International Society of Poets in Washington to be inducted as a Distinguished Member (copy of invitation attached).

Of course I had no choice but to decline the invitation with regret, a giggle and an confession that I was not a poet by any stretch of imagination.

I explained to the Committee that I received the poem and simply put it down in writing as it streamed in my brain, and it is not my intellectual property.

My poem had also find its way to Mrs. Leah Rabin, the widow of Yitzhak Rabin through the Israeli's Ambassador to Australia.

This is the award - winning poem:

TO: YITZHAK RABIN a great hero in war and even a greater hero of peace

If there are any Men of War turned into Men of Peace

You must be one of them

If there are any True Great Leaders of Men

You must be one of them

If there are any Brave Leaders of Men with Courage

You must be one of them

If there are any World Leaders deserve the Respect of Men of Peace

You must be one of them

If there are any Great Leaders this Troubled World is indebted to

You must be one of them, too

You are a man of few words, but you mean every word you say.

There is so much in the few words you say POSSUM can put meaning to.

There is so much in the way you speak POSSUM can read.

There is even a lot about the way you walk POSSUM can talk.

But it all transcends the everyday language of Man.

Yitzhak Your Life is not in Vain, May Peace You so Yearn for in The Middle East be a Reality.

REST IN PEACE YITZHAK!

T. SUBAGIO (Empu POSSUM) Empu = Guru = Master

This Day the Fifth of November Nineteen Hundred and Ninety Five

Central Australia – Mardijah S

The Wet Desert

Well miracles do happen - we have had nearly a month of frequent rain - cloud bursts, hail, winds, sand storms, floods and amazingly dramatic electric storms. All the claypans are full and small water creatures that have lain on the dry ground for years are now bursting into life! Our usually dry Todd River has flowed several times - fed from storm clouds - rising from nothing to three metres high in a couple of hours.

The grass is growing as you watch and now the desert is beginning to bloom - a wonderful sight.

Irma and I are both in Alice for now and Diana is travelling down in the Pitjantjara Lands. The latihan is as strong as ever.

TREASURY INFORMATION - Sophia B, Sebastiana P

PART TIME BOOKKEEPER JOB AVAILABLE

Subud Australia is looking for a new bookkeeper. Ideally, we would like someone with professional qualifications and/or experience with MYOB which is the software package we use. We pay \$35 per hour and the work averages about 4 hours per week, though it is busier at some points in the year and quieter at other times. It would suit someone at home – perhaps retired, or at home with children, caring responsibilities, a disability or just seeking additional part-time work.

Anyone who wishes to apply should contact Sophia B at anvblake@iinet.net.au , providing a brief CV and/or a description of your experience and qualifications. Preference will be given to people with experience in using MYOB. If anyone wishes to discuss it or ask further questions, I can be contacted by phone on 08 9337 3726 after hours.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUBUD AUSTRALIA

Target contributions for each group in Australia were calculated at the beginning of the last financial year. These figures were based on the amount each group would need to provide to meet the budget which was agreed to by Group Chairs at Congress. The intention was to provide Groups with the information that they needed to be able to contribute to Subud Australia in an orderly and sufficient manner to meet the needs agreed to in the budget. Some groups did very well, exceeding or meeting or at least getting close to their target figures. Thank you to those Groups, your generosity has helped support the latihan in Australia! Overall though the result was disappointing, with only 54% of the amount need being provided. This meant we had to draw on our reserves – clearly something we cannot do indefinitely.

SUSILA DHARMA – Renee G

I am back from my excellent Ayurvedic cure in Trivandrum India. I benefitted from excellent doctors, blissful treatments and relevant diets. I gave myself a lot of time for my inner process integrating also the lessons my big fall gave me. I have made up my mind never to rush again and to follow things I feel comfortable about.

Right now I have to organize my move from our Octagon house to the one Ludwig partly renovated and partly built which is located in the same garden. I am in the process of organizing everything. I have to be out of my present house by December 13. Not a small ask. But I am lucky that I am part of a very loving Subud group. Many members have offered their help.

As to my SD job and ICDP. We are at the point where ICDP Norway asks how much we would be able to afford to pay them to send out a trainer. I have today emailed the interested members to ask this question.

I could possibly house the training and accommodation in my new house, to save accommodation expenses. If I remember rightly, a member offered to do the catering for us. But I have to check that. (my brain has not yet entirely recovered from that massive concussion).

I am still committed to go ahead with ICDP. However, the reality I face in Subud Australia is not very encouraging. There is one precious member who contributes \$ 50.00 per month. One lovely couple donated

\$ 2400 from their Widjojo money. If we are lucky that could pay for one air ticket. David W gave me three addresses of charities to contact regarding working with them. I have not done it yet as everything is mainly in the air at this time. We invited Save the Children fund thinking it would be good to involve them from the beginning. They seem to have withdrawn their contact as so far we had very little to offer while they were interested.

I will have to find out Subud Australia's views on Susila Dharma at the Congress.

NATIONAL HELPERS - Lydia S

In October some of the National Helpers; Ken, Rohmana and Asariah flew to Perth to meet Simon and stay for an extended visit of one week. We joined in the regular latihans and spent a weekend up at Hilltop, the wonderful enterprise of the Pope's. It was lovely to be a part of the kedjiwaan weekend and the latihans and testing sessions were well attended. We met with old Subud friends and new... the newest being the adorable baby of Michael and Jenny. It was very *deja vu* for Asariah to latihan at the hall having lived in Perth for a few years in the 1990's. It was lovely being so well cared for and spending quality time with everyone.

The last weekend of October saw Rohmana, Minh Su and Lydia in Tasmania visiting the small group there. It was a lovely weekend of catching up with old friends, visiting the market, walking on the beach and of course latihan and testing. We felt very at home and well looked after.

November brought the International Helpers to our shores, first Sugandi and Judy visited Darwin and then Asmaniah, Judy, Sugandi, Robert and Mason caught up with Luqman, Asariah and Lydia in Brisbane. The weekend was not extremely well attended but a couple of members arrived from the Sunshine group and one from Wollumbin. Judy made us aware of the need of the people working so hard preparing for the congress in New Zealand. We tested how it was for them to do this work and how it would be if we supported them and the difference was profound... as it stands they are struggling but with wider awareness and support it is so much easier for them. If anyone feels to join in a latihan of support for the organising team of the upcoming international congress it happens on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the same time as the international latihan two weeks earlier and your participation would be much appreciated!

After Brisbane came a trip to Gunnebah. Asariah took Asmaniah and Judy, and Roland B took Robert and Sugandi. We drove off at Nerang into the glorious countryside by the National Park along winding roads and through thick forests and undulating hills beautifully farmed. It was raining, but not heavily. We meandered along until we arrived at Nobby's creek. Gunnebah, for those who haven't been, is a glorious country retreat, with amazing views of one of Australia's most beautiful areas. The mud brick dwellings sit invitingly amongst the trees and bushland. There's a huge swimming pool and down the path to just before a beautiful creek, there's the latihan hall, absolutely gorgeous with huge wooden doors, that look medieval. We were greeted with teas and biscuits in the main area for guests and the International Helpers were given the guided tour. It was a lovely couple of days and the IHs did testing with the local members and also for the members of the Gunnebah enterprise. We ate sumptuously and slept well in the guest bedrooms. It was over all too soon, and then the IHs headed south. first to Sydney and then to Canberra where they caught up with Liliana, home after spending a few months overseas.

This last weekend in November brought the full National Dewan and visiting International Helpers to Melbourne for a long weekend. We met to prepare for Congress and the IHs were there both as a continuation of their Australian tour and to give us some time. It was a lovely large gathering of many of the members of the three groups in Melbourne. The IHs met with local helpers one evening and joined in group latihan and then we had a large group on Sunday morning for latihan and some powerful testing afterwards.

We are all looking forward to returning to Melbourne in January and hope to see many members from around Australia

there.

OBITUARY - Matthew M writes from New Zealand

This is to let you know of the passing of **Istimah Week**, on Thursday 13th November in the early afternoon. Many of you will know Istimah and her late husband, Mark, who were early members and pioneers when Subud came to the west, and who had major roles in the spread and early growth of Subud, especially in the Americas. Istimah accompanied Bapak as a Spanish translator in his travels in South America.

Those of you who do not know Istimah personally may be familiar with her book, *The Man From the East*, a memoir of her experiences of Pak Subuh over many years.

The funeral was on Monday 17th November at 11:00 am at the Onetangi Cemetery on Waiheke Island. Istimah's daughter, Sandra, extended invitations on behalf of the family to any Subud brothers and sisters who were able to attend.

ONE CHILD'S WAR - New Book by Hugh Hanafi H

This is a story of joy, suffering and sadness expressed through the experiences and adventures of Steven Riley, a young boy from south London, as he grows up during World War II.

For a more complete synopsis or to order One Child's War, visit Hanafi's website www.oneblokesview.com

The book can also be ordered from all good bookshops; www.poseidonbooks.com or through Zeus Publications - phone 07 55 755 141, fax: 07 55 755 142.

People/bookstores ordering should use the title **One Child's War** and **ISBN Number** which is: **978-1-921406-96-6 (pbk)**

Incidentally, Hanafi will probably republish his novel **Master Control** in the New Year, here in Oz by the same publisher, Poseidon/Zeus.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



[Make the Big...oc \(50.5 KB\)](#)