

Please send contributions for December's E-News to sebnich@gmail.com

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

In today's column, I want to discuss the idea of bringing (or sending) your ideas to Congress.

First, a basic background on Congress meetings:

There are two kinds of decision-making meetings at Congress:

- The AGM
- Council Meetings

There are certain decisions that can only be made at the AGM, such as the election of the Chair, and presentation of the statutory accounts. These are being taken care of in the planning for the Congress. There are certain kinds of major decisions which can only be taken at the AGM. There are also deadlines for giving notice of AGM resolutions. These are all described in the constitution.

To date, no-one has tabled any resolutions that would need to be considered at the AGM.

Council, on the other hand, has the full power of Congress between AGMs. And in fact, the people that vote on Council are the same people that vote at the AGM, so in terms of who represents you, there's not that much difference between the two.

Therefore, it seems to me to make sense that we reserve the AGM for only those kinds of resolutions that can be decided at the AGM, and put the rest before Council (same people, meeting before and after the AGM.) The advantage of Council is that its operating rules are flexible enough that it can consider resolutions raised at Congress itself, in the many workshops that will be held, and even at the Council meeting itself. This allows Congress to fulfill its core purpose, which is to allow people to meet face to face, and develop ideas and solutions that might not be apparent to them at home.

This doesn't mean that if you are not attending, you are left out! If you are not attending, the most important thing to do is to bring your ideas, issues, concerns, complaints, observations... whatever you feel appropriate, to the attention of your Chair.

Some groups have the custom of instructing their Chair how to vote on certain points. Most groups, to my knowledge, inform and brief their Chair, but trust them to vote in accordance with their understanding, based on what develops Congress. I strongly support the model in which groups inform and brief their delegates, but not attempt to control them. There are two reasons:

- I believe you get better decisions when you entrust people to do the right thing at the right place and time, and
- When your delegates sit together either in Council or at the AGM, they are not there to do what's best for your group. They are there to do the best thing for the Subud Australia: for all of us, for the whole of us.

So: What are the issues that are likely to be discussed at Congress, both in Workshops, and at Council Meetings?

This is my list, and this list will be developed over the next 7 days in Council, at which time your Chair will have an expanded list. In my list (below), I have added a few words which are MY view (not the Council's view) of why these issues are important.

So here we go:

PROPERTY

We have a changing population. Is the way our property assets are vested best serving the needs of our people today, and in the coming decade?

MORNINGSIDE C.A.R.E.

Munawaroh E, the prime mover behind this Subud project, has passed away. Its future is at large.

THE NATIONAL SURVEY

The results are in. What do they tell us about ourselves?

SUBUD SUSTAINABILITY

Care for our future. Care for our elders. Care for our youth. Care for ourselves.

THE ZONE

Is it working for us to represent us at WSA? Does it work to connect us to other countries. (The Zone is meeting at Congress, so a good time to reflect on these issues.)

CONGRESS FINANCES

Congresses are are biggest financial endeavours. Can we run them better?

SUBUD AUSTRALIA FINANCES

How we are doing in moving towards a balanced budget? What's our next budget? How do we invest our capital?

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

We have a website. We have a monthly e-news. Accent has been suspended. How many channels of communication do we need? What's the most efficient way to combine them in a sustainable, easy-to-manage way?

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

It's our responsibility to make the latihan available, but it's not available if no-one can find out about it. What's an appropriate way of doing that? What was done in Subud's history, that is no longer being done? What is Perth's recent experience?

WINGS

What's up with:

- SES
- SICA
- SIHA
- Susila Dharma
- Youth

(in alphabetical order :-)

SHARED VISION

In the middle of this year, we started a visioning process for Council (not all of Subud Australia). It revealed views that were surprisingly convergent in some areas (the obstacles we face), but divergent in other areas (where we are going.) This process is not complete.

MENTAL HEALTH

An ongoing working group.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

An ongoing working group.

MOU WITH WSA

WSA have sent us a draft Memorandum of Agreement about how the Subud name and symbol are to be used.

CONTINUITY OF GOVERNANCE

How do we ensure that the turnover of people every two years doesn't lead to us a big gap in good governance, and the ball being dropped as its passed from one National Committee team to another?

Again: This list will expand and change over the next week. By the end of the week, we hope to have a more definitive list. Even that list won't be closed, though. So...

Please talk together, and to your Chairs, about all of these issues. Add issues that are important to you.

Your Chair is your channel to Council. Please use it. We'll listen.

Best regards, stay well, and see you in Melbourne.

David W

National Chair

GROUP NEWS

Sydney Northshore – Helena C

Our beloved sister, Michele v R L has passed on, peacefully, about 4pm on Friday, October 31, 2008 in the northern suburbs of Sydney. Her beautiful soul is free and we pray that the Grace of Almighty God guides her to the highest heaven, based on her fine and loving deeds in this life.

In this year, 2008, Michele quietly marked her 80th birthday (July 17th) and her 50th anniversary in Subud (opened January, 1958, Munich) – coinciding with the 50th year of Subud arriving in her adopted country Australia. She served most of these 50 years as a Helper – local (Sydney, Hawaii), national/regional (USA) and International.

She often said, "Subud is my life". Michele was a consummate sister to so many. She has touched and supported, with grace and love, the lives of many thousands of people around the world for many decades.

Over the last 18 months of her declining health, she has been very grateful for the many messages and visits from those near and far. I am sure she would now be thankful for your prayers and Latihan that she might be granted the best circumstances in the life she has now begun.

The Funeral Service for our dear Michele will take place on Friday, November 7, 2008 at 1:45pm

West Chapel, Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens Crematorium, Delhi Road, North Ryde, NSW

Following the Service, you are welcome for refreshments at

The Stewart & Munting Family Residence, Hornsby NSW

Please RSVP, if possible to: Hadijah at hmunting@bigpond.net.au

With love from her sisters & brothers

Subud Northshore

Melbourne – Rohana F

Dear lovely brothers and sisters,

Have you seen the beautiful pictures of the Congress 09 venue on www.subud.org.au? If not, please do so, then click on 'congress' and you will see that La Trobe university looks different as they have made several renovations. The landscape is lush, going from spring into summer. Sprinklers use recycled water from the moat, so the lawns are beautiful and green, even attracting migrating geese.

We are putting together an interesting and varied program, with many kejiwaan sessions, workshops, Wing sessions and artistic and cultural activities on site (with Zone Council meetings to boot!)

There will also be plenty of interesting activities in and around Melbourne generally. These include visits to St Kilda's colorful Acland Street; to Federation Square and the CBD; to the Lygon and Brunswick Street shopping and dining precincts; as well as to Mount Dandenong, Melbourne Museum, and to various parks and nature walks located close to the Congress venue. We are also planning to book a number of mini-buses to help take members to these locations. We are also planning plenty of sports and other activities for children and youth. There are just a few weeks left before congress. We need you all to fill up your registration forms and send them on. It helps us a great deal if you complete them and send them now, so we do not have to sift through an influx of forms at the last moment. REGISTRATIONS CLOSE ON THE 1ST OF DECEMBER. Unfortunately, La Trobe will not be able to release any more rooms after that date. So please send your forms THIS WEEK. Accommodation outside of La Trobe is quite expensive.

This congress will be hosting the Zone Council meetings. We are expecting the International Helpers to attend. So please come, and make it a success. We need numbers to make it financially viable for everybody. PLEASE START BOOKING! The latest I heard was that there are thirteen people coming to congress from New Zealand. They have always supported us, and we have supported their congress. There are so many cultural and social events being planned. As usual, the local talent will be on show. Anyone interested in taking part, please give Sebastian N your details.

Congress needs you - we need you!! Please start sending your registration forms. Much love, Rohana

Darwin – Elinor M

The Darwin Group is excitedly looking forward to the visit to our group of 2 International Helpers, Judi from New Zealand and Sugandi from Indonesia. It's a first for us and we have high expectations. We are grateful to the organisers for remembering us and making such an event happen. Love Elinor.

Canberra – Ruth M

I am pleased to announce that at a Canberra General Meeting on Sunday last, members voted to accept the offer of land from the ACT Government on which to build a place of worship and community center. The design of the building is approved so signing the lease of land for 99 years (renewable) is the next step. It has taken a long time to get to this point because land is not freehold in Canberra and the Government process is slow. However, this step moves us forward to our goal of having our own Latihan place and consequently an enterprise. Your prayers for the success of the project are appreciated.

We plan to present details to you all at Congress and if we can transport it to Melbourne, show you a model of the design. With love from Ruth

Central Australia – Mardijah S

A few grains of red dust from The Centre

It is hotting up and willy-willys swirl up red dust everywhere. Pretty quiet here - latihan as ever - eternal as the wide land and beyond.

Elinor from Darwin is here today and she, I and Diana will latihan tonight. Irma is away travelling and I will be off down to Sydney in December for the summer.

I am looking forward to catching up with everyone at Congress. It should be a special time as the Zone One Gathering is to be there with us. I do love the way that language and cultures are no barrier in Subud. It would be wonderful if delegates from all across our Zone; Indonesia, India, Iran, Japan, New Zealand, Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Bangladesh and Pakistan and other places can come - who knows, miracles do happen

love to all

Mardijah

Adelaide South - Subagio

1) We lost 2 members, Umar S and Philip C since early in the year.

We haven't been able to contact them. Although both had email addresses they never responded to our communication. Umar S originally came from UK.

I contacted Subud UK about the whereabouts of Umar S and they could not locate him. Philip C was not well and had personal problems.

I am concerned for the wellbeing of these members.

Irena G decided to go for a 12 month sabbatical to New York. She took her family, husband JOHN and daughter BEATA, departing on the 19 April this year.

The Group's membership has shrunk to 6, including Irena G, consisting of 2 women and 4 men. It can barely be called a group, as I understand there is somewhere a definition of a Subud Group, being a centre with a minimum membership number of 6. Thankfully one can say, it is quality that matters.

2) GROUP'S RELATIONSHIP WITH KALIMANTAN SUBUD SCHOOL

" BINA CITRA UTAMA" (BCU) & SUBUD YAYASAN USAHA MULYA

So far the Group has contributed over \$3000.00 towards Scholarship Fund of the School. And the Group is committed to continue its support to the School by contributing annually towards the Scholarship Fund.

3) IF THE WORLD IS RULED BY NAFSU OF GREED

In Vol.30 No.1 of Subud Voice (January 2003 edition), the editor invited readers to send spiritual experience in response to Ibu Rahayu's urging that members share their experiences.

I can understand Ibu Rahayu's motive in urging members to share spiritual experiences. She wants members to strengthen one another's FAITH through sharing spiritual experiences.

In fact I for one have also tried to encourage members to share their experiences through our Group's Newsletter "TAPESTRY" for the same reason.

I have many spiritual experiences and here is one of my earliest, the one that I received only days after I was opened in Subud. It happened to me when I was still in Jakarta some 40 years ago.

One afternoon I was lying on the sofa, wide-awake, when suddenly I felt as if a sentence, in Javanese, was carved within my brain with a surgical scalpel.

The Javanese sentence goes as follow:

"Yen DONYA dikuwasani NAFSU (KERAKUSAN) bakal hancur!"

If I translate it into English it reads:

"If the WORLD is ruled by NAFSU (OF GREED) it will destroy itself!"

My instant understanding of the receiving was that the WORLD is my own inner-self, that is the micro WORLD, as well the macro WORLD, the outside WORLD.

My experience tells me that true receivings come with a very clear and unshakeable understanding that stays fresh and never becomes diluted or fuzzy with time.

The present world situation makes me think, whether the macro WORLD is being consumed by NAFSU of GREED and I wonder if we are not observing the macro WORLD destroying itself right now in front of our eyes.

May Peace and Wellbeing be with you.

Subagio. Adelaide, Australia

March 2003. Reconfirmed October 2008

Sunshine

Welcome to new incoming Chair Rosemary H and best wishes and thanks to outgoing Chair Bereny H!

Brisbane

Welcome to incoming Chair Ridwan L and thanks and appreciation to outgoing Chair Hilton B!

INTERNATIONAL HELPER VISITS

Australia November 2008

In the old days, Bapak used to travel to visit groups around the world, giving talks and testing sessions to encourage us and help our capacity to receive this amazing gift of the latihan and to help us understand how we could put the benefits into our daily lives.

Now that Bapak is no longer here, this role is shared by all Bapak's helpers, whether local, national or international. Every four years some helpers are appointed as national helpers for their country and some are appointed as international helpers for their area. All helpers' responsibilities are broadly the same – to continue Bapak's mission - either in their group, country or area.

There are 6 international helpers for our area – Judy G and Raina M from New Zealand, Robert G from Sri Lanka, Sugandi P from Indonesia and Mason C and myself from Australia. Our area covers the Asia Pacific countries, as far north as Iran and Japan and south to New Zealand with everything in between! So the distances are vast.

This means that in these days of busy lives and limited budgets it is necessary to have a selection process, so each year we test which countries we should visit, how many of us should go and who. In view of the congress coming up in January, we also tested about whether to travel in Australia in November, just to attend the congress or to combine this with visits to the groups in January. To travel in November was clearly the best option. Those coming are Judy, Robert, Sugandi and myself.

Judy and Sugandi will start in Darwin and then the four of us will visit Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. Our itinerary is:-

Darwin 11-14 November

Brisbane 15-18 November

Gunnebah 18-19 November

Sydney Newtown 19-22 November

Sydney Northshore 23-24 November

Canberra 24-27 November

Melbourne Heatherton 27-1/2 December (Judy and Robert fly out on the 2nd)

In each group we hope to spend time with the group helpers; together to share our experiences of being helpers, things that may cause concern or that people are unclear about, what has worked well, what needs some attention etc so that through doing latihan and testing together we may all grow in our understanding and awareness of our duties and responsibilities as Bapak's helpers. We will be spending one day in Melbourne (Saturday) with the national helpers when the emphasis will be on national kejiwaan issues.

We look forward to spending time with as many members as possible, doing latihan and testing together, sharing joys and concerns about any aspect of the latihan and how it impacts on our lives. We hope to meet up with anyone who is working for Subud and to hear what is happening in Subud Australia. In other words, we look forward to spending quality time together with the aim of enhancing our experience of the latihan and the benefits for our lives.

On behalf of the area 1 international dewan,

Asmaniah F

WINGS UPDATES

SICA – from www.subudworldnews.com

Erica S and Rachel D from France recently took their *Puppeteers Without Borders* company to Australia. They presented a week of intensive puppetry workshops beginning at the *Queensland Multicultural Festival 2008, Diversity Rocks* in Brisbane.

Erica writes about the workshops: "We presented two performances in the children's activity area, and gave a workshop for children with their parents, in which they learnt how to make simple and amusing "walking puppets" for Table Theater. ...We also gave Workshops on Puppetry for students at Milperra State High School [in which] students come from 28 different countries and speak at least 40 different languages. Milperra is an intensive English language reception center and settlement service for newly arrived immigrant and refugee students ...Each child made his own "talking puppet," communicated through the puppet in English with his/her friends, and created short scenes.

It was exciting to see how while working with the puppets the children became more joyful, and communicated more easily and openly with their peers. The teachers present during the workshops were surprised by the results, and expressed the wish to continue to use the puppets in their work in the classroom."

And finally, Erica taught a course for teachers on the use of puppetry in education. To read her full report visit www.subudworldnews.com

MELBOURNE CONGRESS

Registrations Must be in by December 1st!

Congress Theatre Project

This Melbourne congress come create a theatre performance from scratch! Join us in a series of workshops for all ages to write, rehearse, and perform a piece of live theatre.

The idea is to create something that involves a wide age range... from 7 years old up to 107. We'll meet over the congress in 3 x 2 hour workshops. In between other events... murmurings of the final performance... will be happening around congress. Interested? Places are limited, we're only taking 15 people.

I'm Mitchell from Curious Legends Theatre Company... some of you know me already. The past 3 years my wife and I have been running Curious Legends, getting involved in all kinds of projects. Recently we finished a series of workshops in Melbourne where we wrote a play with 5 to 8 year olds and their parents over 3 months. It was alot of fun, and we'd like to do something similar at congress. Magic alchemy happens when you mix ages, and the results are often surprising...

If you want to know more about the Congress Project, and how to get involved, email me at: curious@curiouslegends.com.au

For Curious Legends and what we're doing, go to www.curiouslegends.com.au

See you at the congress!

~Mitchell R

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