



A Subud House for Canberra – a Story of Persistence...



The Canberra Subud House. (Photo Marcus Mackay)

From a staff reporter...

On Saturday, 25th March 2017, there was a celebration in Canberra, Australia's national capital, to open the newly built Subud house. About 70 adults from Canberra, around Australia and from New Zealand, plus many children, gathered at the house to declare it open.

This was an important milestone, for Canberra members, but also for Subud Australia generally. Since 1963, Subud houses have been purchased and maintained in almost all of the capital cities of the various Australian states, but the creation of a Subud house in Canberra has been elusive.

Now it has happened, and the Subud house in Canberra anchors Subud in Australia's national life with a physical footprint in Canberra.

Canberra...

Canberra is an "artificial city", deliberately created to be the place of the nation's Parliament and its other major institutions such as the High Court, the National Art Gallery and the National Library. It is also a place where many national organisations and agencies are represented in order to facilitate access to government. So, Subud in Canberra has the opportunity to be more than just another local group.

However, it has not been an easy journey to create a Subud Centre in Canberra despite Subud having been present in the city since 1969. It has taken the sustained effort and endurance of many people over a very long period of time.

The construction of the Subud house only began just under a year ago, but from another point of view, it could be said that it took more than 20 years to accomplish.

[The Story Begins...](#)

The story begins in the early 1990s. A handful of individuals and families were already thinking about a Subud house, and this aspiration crystallized under the name "the Canberra Project".

A further step came in 1994 when at a Subud Australia National Congress it was decided to create a "National Center Project" and testing showed it should be located in Canberra. The group's Canberra Project was ultimately absorbed into the national project.

This vision brought more people to come and live in Canberra and a search began for a suitable property. Unable to find a suitable existing property to purchase, the group sought a grant of land from the local government on behalf of Subud Australia, as all land in Canberra is held by leasehold.

After a long period of searching, preparing development plans and negotiation with the government, 13 hectares of land overlooking the Murrumbidgee River was offered to Subud for the price of AUD\$105,000. This property was a magnificent opportunity, but unfortunately negotiation between the various parts of Subud Australia ended in doubts and disagreements and National Council declined the offer and the project was shelved.

This proved a bruising experience, especially for people in Canberra who had really committed themselves to making this project happen.

[Enterprise](#)

After a period of "recovery", the ambition to have a Subud house was revived in 2003. This led to a new search and renewed negotiations with government, but under the banner of Subud Canberra to distinguish the group from the previous land offer that Subud Australia had declined

A notable aspect of this period was the effort of the Canberra members and committee to fund raise for the project. In his talks, Bapak frequently recommends that committees should set up enterprises, and during this time the Canberra group gave a remarkable example of how this could be done.

A project was initiated to make "beanies" and sell them at local markets. Under the leadership of several creative and active ladies, many in the group, became involved in knitting and selling these woollen caps. It has been estimated that over the years this endeavour raised more than AUD\$75,000 for the house project.

As well as the money from the group's enterprise activities, MSF gave a gift of US\$20,000, and there were also many donations from individuals from as far as the USA. These activities, not only raised money, but also welded the group together and made it united in purpose.

[A New Start](#)

While this fund raising occurred, negotiations with local government resulted in a block of land being identified in Canberra's south. It was in a precinct reserved for community and religious use and the neighbours included several Buddhist and Christian denominations. It is an open property comprising two thirds of a hectare over looking parkland.

Before a formal offer of this land could be made, the government required that development plans be prepared, submitted and approved. An ambitious design was developed which included two latihan halls, a national office, and a place for archives, and a caretaker's cottage. After two years of >



*Landscaping around the house.
(Photo Marcus Mackay)*

planning and development approval for the development was received in 2008. The local government then formalised their offer of a 99-year concessional lease over the block of land and the group purchased the land for just under \$50,000 – a very small amount considering the land prices in capital cities in Australia.

Building was due to commence in 2010, but was aborted at the “eleventh hour” when all the requisite finance could not be raised. Once again, this was a very painful process involving hurt feelings for people who had made big efforts and commitments.

A New Design

In 2011, the Committee restarted the project on the basis of a smaller development on the same block of land. Two years later a more modest design was submitted to the government and approved as a Stage 1 development, with later stages to follow. This design was like a suburban house, with the interior adapted for the needs of the latihan, but to be built to commercial building standards.

Over the next two years this design was refined and expanded by a third so that now the approved design includes one spacious latihan hall, a kitchen and social area, a smaller multipurpose room and all the usual amenities.

Construction started in May 2016 and the completed basic building was handed to the group in November. The following months saw many members spending weekends and spare days painting the building, laying floors, installing fittings and finally starting to landscape the block. It has now been opened to much acclaim, and relief.

The Completed Center

The total cost of the building, the land and its development has been AUD\$655,000 to-date. Financial support has come from many sources. MSF gave a second gift of US\$50,000 and a loan of US\$50,000. Subud Australia put in a loan of AUD\$50,000 and, via Subud Australia, the Subud Adelaide group has loaned AUD\$20,000 from the sale of its Subud house. Several significant loans have also come from individual members. Perhaps the most amazing contribution of all has been AUD\$470,000 in donations provided by individuals, families and the enterprises.

Soon after the house had been completed, some glass doors and windows were broken. This vandalism was disappointing, but has resulted *Woodlands Church, 18th August 2016* in prioritising the erection of boundary fences and protective shutters and screen for windows and doors. The costs involved in getting protection for the windows and installing fencing is estimated at about AUD\$40,000.

What has been most gratifying for the group has been a spurt in the level of generous financial gifts from members and groups in other parts of Australia as the building neared completion and for the special “fencing appeal”. As the concrete reality of the building emerged, it seems that many members could feel the reality of the project and the group’s efforts and wished to help after years of hearing of the project but without apparent progress.

The good news is overwhelming. Subud now has a “bricks and mortar” presence in Canberra alongside other community groups. Already people are taking notice of us and even wandering onto the property to have a look around and find out who we are.



Carmita Johnson, chair of Subud Canberra, cuts the celebratory cake.

The Opening

The opening filled the still pristine new latihan hall with its newly renovated chairs upholstered in a rich blue. The visitors included the national chairman, national helpers, and the immediate past national chair. The current group chair, Carmita Johnson, opened proceedings with a welcome and an acknowledgement of the traditional indigenous custodians of the land on which the center is built. There was a speech from Kenneth Collette, the national chair.

The personal commitment (over many years) of the Canberra members in bringing the project to fruition is truly inspiring! I know that members around Australia (as well as overseas) are thrilled with the achievement. I am sure that the new building will be a focal point for not only for Subud members, but also the wider community. Please accept our heartfelt best wishes and may God bless you all.

There was also a prayer spoken by Maxwell Fraval on behalf of all the members who have been involved in the whole property endeavour since the 1990s.

Almighty God,

We are gathered here with our brothers and sisters from around the country and from overseas to give thanks, as we mark both the end of a long journey, and the beginning of a new one, in the life of the Canberra group.

We ask forgiveness for the many mistakes we have made along the way and pray that as we move forward, we can work together in a way that reflects the qualities of Susila, Budhi, Dharma.

We give thanks for the life of Bapak who was able to share with us the inestimable gift of the latihan.

May the blessings of Almighty God be with all those present today and with those who are no longer with us but have been part of this journey.

There was also an illuminating presentation by Rasjad Johnson, another long term Canberra resident, about the historic journey going back to the 1990s. Rasjad likes metaphors and he compared the whole process to a rugby game. Rugby is a vigorous game where bodies sometimes collide with bodies and bruises are not unknown. But still the ball gets passed from person to person and finally goals are won, like the opening of the Subud house.

It was a festive night of excellent food with Irish music from Sebastian Flynn, the international SICA Chair, and Maynard Gold. Also performing was Frances Madden, pianist, singer and songwriter, accompanied by her brother Maxwell on bass. The evening concluded in joyous free-form dancing.

The First Latihan

On the following morning, about 50 people again gathered to do the first official latihan in the house. The latihan were followed by testing with the national helpers about the significance of the house for Canberra and for Subud Australia. There was also testing about how we should be in order to best present Subud to the people who will come asking about it.

The commitment has not ended with the opening of the house. There are loans to be repaid and more work to be done on the property that will continue to require a big commitment from this small group. The group also needs to find tenants to rent the space to help generate income for loan repayments.

Over time the Subud house in Canberra may be seen as more than a local endeavour, but as



Frances and Maxwell Madden entertained at the opening of the house.

something that is essential for our national life and a key part of our Subud in Australia

A New Energy

One Canberra member I spoke to summed up the mood of the moment by saying; "This whole process of getting a house has been like a weight on the group for many years. I don't mean that necessarily as a very negative thing, but it has sucked up most of our energies".

"Now, that's gone that energy can be released to do other things in the group – more activities, fun and joy. Last night I watched members of all ages dancing in the house and I could see this spirit of joyful celebration the building can facilitate". It is the group's home.

Another aspect is that we are now a "seasoned" group of people. We have hung in there. We have sustained and endured. We have been through a lot and we have mostly learned how to deal with the "ups and downs", so this gives our group a confidence and maturity as we move into a new phase.

Sometimes in Subud we think that "God is on our side" and that therefore things should always go easily and smoothly. The story of the Canberra Subud House shows that this is not always so and that obstacles and difficulties are often an inevitable part of working in the world and must be faced and overcome if we are to be successful in the "long haul".

Special thanks to Marcus Mackay for supplying much of the information included in this report. ●

'Stuck' Subud Investors

Leonard van Hien writes...

I should be grateful if you would kindly consider placing the attached text in your respective publications.

A lot of value - potentially millions of dollars - is currently lost to Subud because most of the original investors in Kalimantan Gold Corporation either don't have stockbroker accounts or don't hold their Asiamet shares in a stockbroker account.

That loss could be avoided if those investors wish to donate their shares to MSF (MSF has a broker account). However, the loss will be permanent and irrecoverable if those "stuck" Subud investors now also fail to inform the company of their current address as they will not receive new share certificates and hence would no longer be able to transfer their shares either to a broker or to MSF.

This is a wake up call!



KALIMANTAN GOLD CORPORATION (renamed Asiamet Resources Ltd) REMINDER TO "STUCK" SUBUD INVESTORS

On 5 April 2017 Leonard van Hien asked the executive chairman, Tony Manini, about the position of "stuck" Subud shareholders following the company's delisting from the Toronto stock exchange. Leonard's enquiry and Tony Manini's same day reply are copied below. The main message to stuck shareholders is to ensure your address details, as currently informed to the company, is up to date otherwise you will not receive a new certificate and the old one will be null and void.

Dear Tony

I know several of the original shareholders - those who don't yet hold their shares in a broker account - are hoping that following the Toronto delisting they will be able to transfer their shares without a Medallion Guarantee. Will the new Bermuda-regulated transfer procedures please be explained shortly?

Kind regards, Leonard

Tony's Reply

Leonard,

Please refer announcement on Wed Jan 25, 2017 entitled Asiamet Resources Voluntarily De-listing from TSX Venture Exchange.

Bottom line is provided they are registered shareholders and their address is up to date, they will receive new Bermuda registered certificates and the Canadian registered certificates will be null and void. If they wish to trade the shares they will need to open an account with a London broker, fill out a DI issuance form and send the DI issuance form together with the new Bermuda registered share certificate to the London broker. The shares will then be entered onto the CREST system and be tradable by their broker. Medallion guarantee not required.

Regards, Tony

Footnote: DI stands for Depositary Interests

A FURTHER COMMUNICATION FROM LEONARD...

KALIMANTAN GOLD CORPORATION (re-named Asiamet Resources Ltd.)

SUBUD'S "STUCK" SHAREHOLDERS

Leonard van Hien writes from Jakarta...

Subud members who invested in Kalimantan Gold Corporation should by now have received a new stock certificate, a letter dated 3 April 2017 and a Stock Transfer Form from the company's share transfer agent Computershare.

For the many Subud investors who do not have a London stock broker account it is at this point worth considering donating the shares to the Muhammad Subuh Foundation. This can be accomplished by completing the Stock Transfer Form.

It is possible that the value of the shares will increase. However, it seems unlikely that many Subud investors will know of anyone willing to buy the shares privately. Without a London stock broker account it will not be possible to trade the shares on the stock exchange in the open market. By donating these Asiamet shares to MSF value will be preserved for Subud and will be professionally managed going forward.

Further information can be requested from Lucian Parshall, Executive Director at MSF.

For investors with queries about their certificates etc. the person to write to at Computershare is:

Sophie de Freitas, Client Relationship Director

Computershare Investor Services (Bermuda) Limited

c/o Queensway House, Hilgrove Street, St Helier, Jersey JE1 1ES

Tel: +44 (0) 370 707 4040 Facsimile +44 (0) 370 873 5851 www.computershareoffshore.com ●

Wild Weather in Australia

Harris Smart reports on 1000 year flood levels...

The closing days of March, and the beginning of April, brought some particularly wild weather to Australia.

It was all started by Tropical Cyclone Debbie (Category Four Cyclone) who came racing in from the Pacific making landfall at the resort town of Airlie beach and proceeding to cut a swathe of havoc and destruction across Central Queensland. One of her superpowers was winds of 270 km an hour which she used to un-roof houses and dump them in the neighbours' backyards.

Fortunately, there were no Subud members directly in her path. The Schionnings who fish



The flooded town of Lismore Northern NSW.

farm near Cairns experienced some strong winds, but the full force of Cyclone Debbie passed them by.

She spent herself in a few days, but then somehow managed to trigger torrential rainstorms to the south. So that the area from the Sunshine Coast to Brisbane, and further south into northern New South Wales, has had floods of historic levels and proportions.

There seems to have been no major property damage for Subud members living in the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane or the Gold Coast.

In northern NSW Subud members are to be found, sprinkled around the countryside and also in big country towns like Lismore and Murwillumbah which have been completely flooded by rivers which broke their banks, sometimes at unprecedented levels. Thirty thousand people have been evacuated.

There are two retreat centers run by Subud members in the area, Gunnebah and Gymea, and it seems that they escaped damage.

Marlena Basser, one of the founding partners of Gunnebah, told me that there had been no damage there, although the staff had been cut off for five days by flooded roads and their power had also gone down. But she couldn't talk to me for very long, because she was helping an old lady deal with her flood damage.

Irwan Wiley, the CEO of the Subud charity Morningside CARE (which includes Sine Cera) had his Suburu washed down the main street and casually dumped by the side of the road, a write-off. He also provided me with a vivid description of the surrounding devastations. "There are cars sitting in the middle of paddocks. The force of the creeks is like bulldozers."

I spoke to National Helper, Marianni New, who lives in a handmade house with her husband Mursalin, also currently a National Helper. "We have never seen the creek come up so high," she told me. "Fortunately, the water raced under the house without doing too much damage. But houses were flooded around us and people are dumping all their flood-damaged possessions out on the street."

One dramatic story concerns Australia's Committee Councillor, Bruce Ray, who lives with his partner, Natascha Wernick, in the isolated hamlet of Burrill Creek. They have been cut off for several days because the flooded creek has destroyed the only road in and out. Arrangements are being made for a food drop.

Natascha posted a photo of the current condition of the road on her Facebook.

However, the good news is that it seems that no Subud members suffered injury or death (two people have died in the floods so far).

And no one has suffered major property damage except for Rayner and Lydia Sturton who had recently moved from Brisbane to a house at Murwillumbah close to the Tweed River which has become a lake.

Their house was on two floors and the bottom floor was an apartment where Halimah Armytage was living. She is the mother of the vast Australian Subud clan of Armytages. The apartment was flooded almost to the ceiling, a devastating blow..

The floodwaters are receding as I write but the bill for the cleanup and repair is likely to be \$1 billion. It seems that in Australia, in seasons of fire and flood, Mother Nature and Daughter Debbie can still make their presence felt.



Only road in and out destroyed at Burrill Creek.

(Photo Natascha Wernick)

Good vibrations... Human Force Camp

Spotting orang-utans from the river, learning about permaculture, Dayak dancing, basket weaving, creek swimming, and getting involved in local communities... All of this and more was on the programme of the sixth Human Force camp, held in December last year at Yayasan Permakultur Kalimantan (YPK).

And we are doing it all again in July this year!

The Human Force Camp is held at a Susila Dharma project every year or so for around two weeks. This is a fabulous and often life-changing opportunity to visit and work in a project and to learn about a different culture and country. The last camp, held in Kalimantan, Indonesia, is rumoured to have been the best ever. If you missed out, now is your chance to catch up...

Like the last one, the focus of this year's camp will be permaculture and culture, environment and community. As a participant, you can expect to help YPK develop its permaculture demonstration site, carry out activities in a local children's home and with the Bina Cita Utama students, learn about the challenges facing local communities and the environment, and go home feeling inspired and confident to take positive action in your own community.

You will also take part in Global Awareness workshops, reflecting on issues like sustainability, human rights and voluntourism, with contributions from local experts on the issues faced by people in the area. And we can guarantee that you will have a LOT of fun and make new friends, as well as hopefully feeling a warm glow from achieving something useful. (The food's delicious too!)

Past participants have called this experience 'unforgettable', 'magical' and 'life-changing'. If you don't believe us, check out some testimonials here:

<https://www.susiladharmacanada.org/participants-feedback-human-force-in-kalimantan/>.

Interested? Here are the details:

- Dates: 17-30 July inclusive
- Place: Yayasan Permakultur Kalimantan (YPK), Rungan Sari, Palangkaraya, Kalimantan.
- Cost: \$700, USD excluding travel costs to and from Palangkaraya (includes food, accommodation, all activities and trips, transport to and from local airport, project resources, subsidy for local volunteers to take part).

[A word about funding](#)

Human Force has a small amount of funding available to subsidise applicants who can demonstrate they are in need of support, who commit to raising the balance of funds themselves and to give back to the programme in some way after the camp (images, articles, film, presentations etc.). The Human Force team can also guide applicants to other sources of funding and support volunteer fundraising with ideas and advice.

Susila Dharma Canada is again offering a \$1500 bursary for the next Camp to an applicant preferably from eastern Canada. The sponsorship is awarded with the understanding that the recipient agrees to make presentations afterwards about their Camp experience. Applicants must be aged 16 or over and be received by May 29, 2017. You have to be accepted by Human Force first and then apply to Susila Dharma Canada. For more information, please email susiladharmacanada.sd@gmail.com

There may also be funding available for UK applicants from SD Britain, although this is to be >



Volunteers on the last Human Force Camp in Kalimantan. Each one holds a chickie being reared according to permaculture principles.

confirmed.

Look for updates on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheHumanForce/>

And get in touch with us for an application form, to be added to our mailing list or if you have any questions hellohumanforce@gmail.com

We can't wait to hear from you!

The Birth of Anisha

Every day, while walking to college, ANISHA Founder Valli Krishnaswamy noticed young children rag-picking. She kept asking them where they came from, and eventually they took her to their slum dwelling. Mary lived on a roof, and Valli managed to climb the wooden ladder to the rooftop.

She was shocked to see this rooftop, where approximately 15 families had been living for 50 years, no water, electricity, or drainage; no facilities apart from temporary thatched shelter. As a result of this visit, she started the ANISHA Foundation. This project continues to serve hundreds of India's poor, although it now works in a rural setting with smallholders and landless farmers.

ANISHA Now

ANISHA is now a small rural development project located in the remote Martalli region in South India.

Although Martalli is covered by family owned farms, many of its residents lack access to adequate and healthy food. This is due, in part, to the high costs associated with chemical farming and a widespread shift to cash crops to meet these expenses.

Anisha works with small-scale farmers and landless farm workers to increase their household food security by promoting organic farming practices, encouraging the establishment of home kitchen gardens, lending them native seeds from Anisha's seed bank, encouraging them to save money and support each other through self-help groups, and spearheading income-generating initiatives.

Since 2006, Anisha has trained over 1,000 farmers in Martalli in organic methods and has helped over 400 landless farm workers to start home kitchen gardens. The focus for the future is increasing the number of residents in Martalli who are able to grow their own healthy food.

The Foundation strives to improve the capacity of government to plan and manage the overall development process.

For more information and videos about Anisha go to:

<https://www.susiladharma.org/project/anisha>

Do you feel inspired to support Susila Dharma? You can make a donation on the SDIA website to support those who have put their inspiration into action <https://www.susiladharma.org/donate-now/>. Or you can mail a cheque in US or Canadian dollars to SDIA, 572, rue Empire, Greenfield Park, Quebec, J4V 1W2, Canada. Or contact us at this address or by email info@susiladharma.org for other ways of donating or making a bequest."



Valli Krishnaswamy, founder of Anisha.



STOP PRESS: CRISIS AT ANISHA

We have just received word from Anisha – the food security project in rural India – seeking immediate financial assistance. The drought is very bad in the area and farmers are at risk of their cattle dying due to lack of fodder. Many cattle have already died. Anisha is in need of \$5000 to purchase fodder to last the farmers 2 months and provide immediate relief.

Valli writes from Anisha...

Karnataka is hit by a serious drought, see also: <http://www.ndtv.com/topic/karnataka-drought>

The situation is very bad here; water scarcity and no fodder available in the region.

The panchayat (regional administration) is supplying water to the villagers which is insufficient.

Animal fodder we have to get from Kollegal which means that the price is very high and the farmers not able to pay. Some lost already their cows and buffaloes or had to sell the meager animals far under price.

The cattle of 30 different Sangham farmers are in critical condition and immediate relief is needed.

Each farmer has an average of 10 heads of livestock. If we give two tons of fodder to each farmer, they can manage for two months. One ton is Rs.6000. "

That is approx. 5000 USD. A sum that will be difficult to raise on such short notice. It is also likely that more cattle will die or have to be sold under price. But if we could manage to save a minimum stock of cattle of each farmer to build on later on, it would be a great relief for the farmers and Valli.

Valli writes yesterday...

"With \$2500 the farmers can manage, even small help brings a lot of changes now."

From the funds Anisha has from grants for 2017, Valli is not able to do anything. And any donation that you may send to save the cattle should not eat into intended grants or donations to the core services and general upkeep for Anisha for 2017, but be treated as a separate gift.

Please try to figure out some assistance, either privately or in cooperation with your National SD. Transfer details can be found under "Donate" on the website

<http://www.anisha.org.in/donate.html> And please advise Valli directly of your support.

Thank you very much in advance for your attention to this issue. ●

Colombo Subud House Sold

Robert Goonetillecke writes from Sri Lanka...

Our Subud House by the Ocean does not belong to us anymore. I recall how we sweated to collect funds to buy the old house.

As I was a witness to the unfolding events right from the beginning (1963) my present feelings may sound very strange. I feel at this present time as if a great burden has been lifted, though fond memories linger. Unlike what happened in many places of the Subud world by the grace of Almighty God, we did not screw it up!

Most of the credit should go to Malik Sideek (Son of Rusely Sideek) a relative newcomer in Subud, it was as if the right man was sent at the right time. I only sweated on the side just with the travelling up and down to Colombo many times during the negotiations!

We have leased out an older house in a quiet neighbourhood in Colombo 5 which meets more than our present needs. It has a guest room and separate caretaker's quarters and lots of space. >



The Colombo Subud House has been sold.

We have leased the house for one year. The location is not far from our first place in Torrington Place.

It is in Havelock Town area off Thimbirigasyaya Road. It's an older house with all we need for the present.

If we could buy this house, the proof that God's guidance was present is complete. The unknown future is in God's hands. Life does go on in spite of human shortcomings and all the lower forces that keep challenging us all the time.

We are hoping our house will also find a buyer so we can move closer to Colombo.

With love to all, Roberto

Rafael Blond: Further Spiritual Experiences...

In a previous issue of Subud Voice we published some spiritual experiences of Rafael Blond, a painter who lives in Liverpool. Here are some further experiences of his...

In addition to the larger latihan experiences I have already described, many smaller occurrences happened. In one instance I was in a supermarket passing items through the checkout when the young checkout girl started talking to me as though I was an intimate friend. She told me about her woes and complaints, and then suddenly realising I was a complete stranger, she went very red with embarrassment and stopped. I thanked her, wished her well and left.

On other occasions whenever I went into a shop where others were waiting to be served, the assistants ignored the waiting customers and served me. There was no obvious reason for this behaviour.

At another time I was leaving a Subud gathering when a Subud member held the door open for me. As he did so I turned and said a general goodbye to the company in the room. Every single person stopped what they were doing and bid me goodbye. The person holding the door was astonished, commenting that when he said goodbye he was lucky if one or two noticed or turned around, and he asked me how I had made everyone respond.

Evidently, whatever was going on in me engendered a response in people without it being anything to do with me or my wishes or will.

All Became Molecules

Other personal experiences happened. One morning I was idly looking out of my studio window at the view of the garden, the trees, and the gateway. the road and the building opposite when the whole scene started to move and what was a relatively static picture dissolved into shapes and forms less defined. All became molecules dancing, vibrating up and down and around.

My feeling was that all we see as solid and firm is actually not. Throughout this time my sight would dramatically change from normal view to an extraordinary precise, defined, bright vision as if someone had suddenly switched on spotlights. I felt as though this was an indication of how it is when your vision comes from the inner. Another receiving which occurred in a number of latihan was a band of the purest radiating white with the most intense black writing across it. The writing was in the most beautiful script but sadly, not in a language familiar to me. However, the whole band of white and the writing felt like it was alive.

Painting as Worship

Very often during all of this time I was blessed with an incredible feeling of bliss that vibrated >



Visitation by an Angel (ink and watercolour).

throughout me and felt way beyond anything in this world. It seemed to be a connection to higher realms and the Power of God. Also there arose inside me a feeling of great release from the burden of decisions and responsibility. Everything came from the latihan and inner guidance and all I had to do was follow it.

All this while I continued to paint during the daytime after my usual morning latihan. I was unable to make my own stretchers and size and prime canvases as I normally did because my outer energy level was very small so I bought in made and primed canvases.

The paintings became more and more spontaneous and by the close of the 18 months became totally immediate so that I didn't know what I was going to paint, had no prior idea or thoughts and just drew and painted as it occurred.

Whilst painting I felt it was part of my worship and as the painting emerged I felt the explanation of its meaning. The subjects were totally spiritual, life and death, the state of people on different levels, lower and higher forces, the Grace and the Power of God. From then to this day when I paint, I feel it is my worship of God and it feels a great blessing.

[The Firmament of the Stars](#)

There were two or more other unusual receivings during this period. In the first one I was doing latihan as usual in my studio when I looked up (my eyes were closed) and saw that the ceiling had disappeared and in its place I could see the whole firmament of the stars.

As I looked at the star-studded sky it suddenly parted at the centre and I saw three massive realms of light in the shape of spheres. The emanating light from each sphere was of a quality unlike anything I had experienced before; it was ultra brilliant and was radiating a feeling which was full of life.

As I stood looking at this amazing scene, I saw that each realm was connected to the other realms by ribbons or corridors of light and I understood inwardly that these were the upper heavens. Then the sky closed over, back to the stars and then back to the room.

[A River around the World](#)

In another latihan I saw the world as a rotating globe just as we see images from outer space. The latihan took me closer and then I saw what appeared to be a circulating stream or river undulating around the world.

Coming in closer still I saw that it was not a river but a continuous band of dead bodies.... all head to toe and wrapped and tied up in shrouds. The band was many wide and deep as well as spanning the circumference of the world. I felt that these people represented the souls who had not yet escaped (left) this world and were trapped there until someone or something could release them

[A Presence in My Room](#)

In a further experience during the latihan I felt a presence in the room that I could only describe as a higher, very holy, very pure being emanating the Power of God. I sensed it was an Angel - I couldn't see it but could feel the presence and power of the being.

Then the Angel reached out and touched me on my chest. A wave of the strongest power dissolved



The Quietness of the Inner Self (2012, oil on canvas)



The Vibration of Life (2010/2011, oil on canvas)

me to almost nothing. I fell to the ground crying. I had two overriding feelings in me - one of asking for forgiveness and the other of the Divine Power and Mercy of God. This description does not convey the depth of my inner feelings at the time of this experience.

This long unexpected period ended in March 1995 in more or less the same sudden way in which it had begun. The strong, overwhelming latihan vibrations stopped. However, the effects, feelings and experiences have remained with me to the present day.

Found My Niche...

Emmanuel Williams recently had an exhibition of photographs and poems reflecting on an abandoned Naval base near where he lives in California....Here is one of the poems...



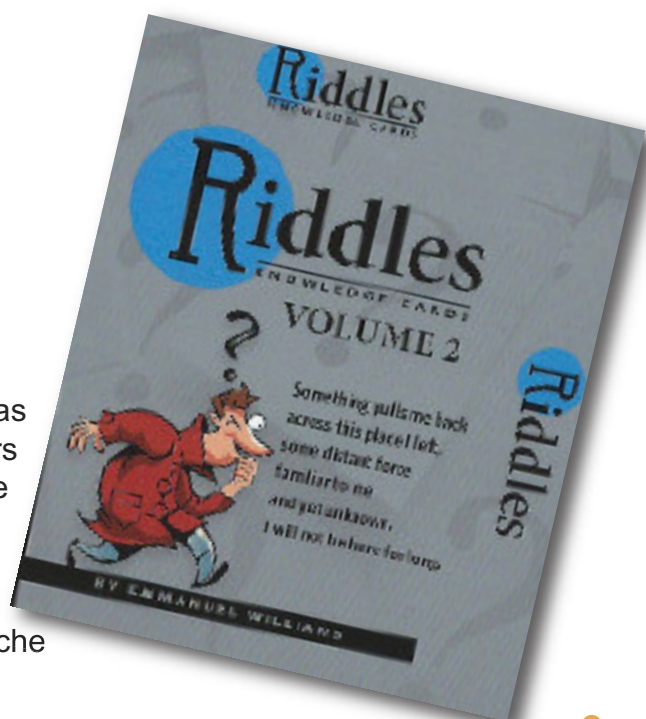
Force

This is not what the sky was made for
not this sharp sleek shape
wings stiff as knife blades
hot jets boring space so fast
sound is left behind
rockets poised like massive bullets
eager for the calibrated kill.

Here you are, bolted to a plinth
icon of an obsolete supremacy.
Night air strokes you
whispers in shadowed trees
while up there
in what was once your loud enclave
a white moon shines upon a world
you may have done more to destroy
than save.

He also writes...

"To my pleased surprise the pack of my riddles that was published by Pomegranate Communications some years has sold over 15,000. So Pomegranate contacted me late last year saying they wanted to publish a second pack. I sent them more riddles and here's the proof (picture right) for the cover they mailed me. Riddles Volume No. 2 will be on sale in June. I have found my niche as an old man." emmanuelriddlemaker@gmail.com



Hollywood Media Hub

Pierce Vaughn writes...

Thanks to the support of Subud Enterprise Services International (SESI), I was granted \$2000 to start a media training hub together with Borneo Productions International, in our office in Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.

The intention was to create a place for young people to learn Video Editing and be part of a creative community. Our hopes are also to attract talented and passionate young people who want to be part of our film efforts here in Kalimantan.

One challenge we faced was sourcing the computer components that we wanted. It is generally more difficult to find specialist equipment in Indonesia and finding the right parts took longer than expected. But thanks to the support of our BPI Office manager who is also our IT guy, we managed to put together two very nice computers. BPI contributed a few parts after we went slightly over budget.

Two people have already started using the computers and have been learning the basic skills quickly. Our next step will be to socialize the project with the local universities and on social media.

I would like to express my gratitude for supporting this project. I hope that in the future I will be able to contribute something back to fund and help someone else with a project that they are passionate about!

Watch this entertaining little video to see the challenges of putting together a custom-made computer!

Best Documentary Nomination

The Coffee Man, Roland Fraval and Jeff Hahn's great documentary following the story of Sasa Sestic as it leads up to his victory as a barista (does he just make it to Australian Champion or go on to become the World Champion?), has been nominated for Best Documentary at the James Beard Awards in New York!

Leonardo di Caprio's award-winning documentary *Before the Flood* can be streamed for free.

One segment of the movie deals with the issue of burning enormous tracts of land for palm oil plantations in Indonesia.

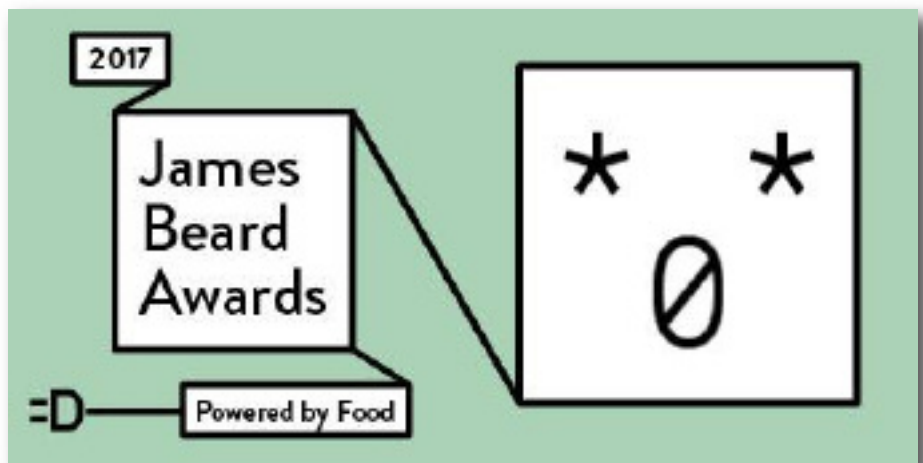
At minute 47, four photographs of the 2015 smoke/haze disaster in Kalimantan taken by Bjorn Vaughn have been inserted into the movie.

Just one episode left to complete the *Finding the Warrior Within* series, the first instalment of the *Dance Around the Globe* project. Episodes 1 - 5 are already online, and the sixth and final episode will be up on March 18.

From Subud World News...



Media Hub.



Malka... Refugee Song

Stefan Freedman writes...

The lead singer and two Subud musicians are performing on my song about a refugee child, which will be featured in a fundraiser event in Suffolk UK.

This is a youtube link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgVDn4Om6OE>

Here is a blog about it, by the artist who provided stunning visuals for the song video.

Ipswich Launch of "Malka" supports Suffolk Refugees, Fri 28 April
and this is a 5(ish) minute radio interview about it.

Hope it's of interest to you and Subud Voice readers.

09/04/2017, Jon Wright - BBC Radio Suffolk

The lead singer is Sebastiana Black (Subud Norwich) and participating musicians are Adrian Lush (Subud Ipswich) on bass viol, sackbut and shawm, which are all early English instruments, and myself (Subud Ipswich) on guitar, whistle, accordion and percussion.



Art work by Lois Cordelia.

SWIM Number 8 APRIL 2017

Emmanuel Williams, Editor of Swim, writes...

Editorial: I had no idea when I started this SWIM (Subud Writers International Magazine) project that it would last as long as it has. Welcome to the 8th issue.

One of the joys of SWIM work is the discovery of talents hitherto unknown to me. In this issue there are excellent poems by Stefanie Brown, someone I'd never heard of. Turns out she's currently creating her first book of poems.

There's lots of good creative work from previous contributors in these pages. Serafina Harper's back. Adrienne Thomas and Maya Spall are back with strong poems. Michael Cooke sent a characteristically manic piece. Marcus Bolt has a great story, and there are some of the cartoons that he and Dirk Campbell did years ago, and which it's a pleasure to revisit. There are fine photos by Lucien Parshall and Emily Conyngham.

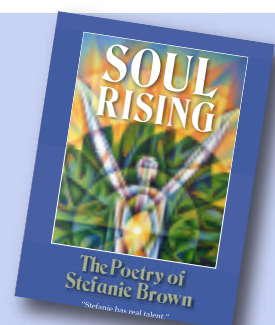
emmanuelriddlemaker@gmail.com

Download the magazine from... <http://zine.sicabritain.co.uk/swim-8>



*Soul Rising,
The Poetry of Stefanie Brown*

Available from www.lulu.com



Spring 2017: Subud Youth News

Rosella Vaughn writes...

The second issue of Subud Youth News had fourteen pages packed with news, articles, events details, interviews, photos and more. It also includes a request for volunteers to help support the World Congress Organising Team, and the call for people to stand for the position of International Youth Coordinator, to take over from George Demers who passed away unexpectedly in January.

The newsletter also introduces the new YOUTH SPACE, which can be found on instagram and on Facebook. Robiyanto Sumowadiwidjojo, newly elected Youth Coordinator for Area 1 and member of the Wisma Subud Jakarta group, says: Youth Space is a concept that came out of the excitement of Basara 2016.

We can still feel the buzz of the event, the sense of purpose and unity, and want to recreate that, but on a smaller and more consistent scale. Basara taught us that when the youth have a space to get together, to be as one in one place, we not only have the opportunity to get to know each other and grow closer, but also to work together on new ideas and innovation.

Youth Space is a bridge. It closes the gap in so many places, from member to member, from young to old, and from within Subud, to the 'outside' world. Let's elaborate on those one at a time. First, we want to source our local talent as we develop enterprises and projects. Let's say I am looking to create an IT project and I need a graphic designer. Why go out looking when I could be finding what I need within our own ranks? Youth Space will help connect people with varying talents and capacities.

Read Robiyanto's full piece plus much more in the Spring 2017 issue of Subud Youth News.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The opening day of World Congress 2018 has been changed from July 26 to July 28, 2018, so the events list in this edition of the newsletter will be amended in the next issue.



The Holy Vibration

Ilaina Lennard writes...

One day when the Lord was inspecting His handiwork in the Universe He came across a tiny planet that was looking a bit sick.

"What's the matter with Planet Earth?" He asked himself. "I have tried giving it the Ten Commandments, and I've also given it Prophets, but the people there still go on fighting and generally misbehaving. What else can I do with them?"

And then He had an idea: "I know - I'll try giving them The Holy Vibration. Even though they won't understand how it happens, I will make it so that they can pass it on to anyone who asks. And if that doesn't work, I may have to give up on them."

So then the Lord caused a few people on Planet Earth, starting with Bapak, to feel the Holy Vibration. With most of those who received it, an improvement in their characters took a long time, because of the heaviness of their own faults and those of their ancestors, but a few received quite quickly and soon they began to spread the new Vibration all over the world.

The Lord then asked Himself: "Will this, my last Gift, now make the planet more peaceful?"

For a while He just watched, and then made a note in His diary: "Get more people to receive this later. Not ready yet."

And for us, on Planet Earth, I think that's where Subud is at this time.

Bapak

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and Other Tales
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and Ibu Siti Sumari
Mardiyah A. Tarantino**



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To order your copy (or copies) click the following link:

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