



The Subud Boston Newsletter

Patience, Sincerity, Submission and Courage

December 1998 • Volume 6/Number 3

Editorial

Greetings! It is quite an honor to carry forth the legacy of Cassidy Sterling and Sharif Horthy, esteemed past editors of the Subud Boston Newsletter. I hope this publication will henceforth measure up to this legacy while also carving out a niche of its own. Both are evolutionary efforts, and suggestions and comments from readers are most welcome.

The newsletter has been dormant for about six months and subscribers will be compensated the three missed issues by automatic subscription extensions.

At times the editorial column will read like a continuation of the introspective "Chairperson's Corner" I wrote during my tenure as Chair. Sometimes it will be more opinionated, and maybe even controversial. I hope it will always be thought-provoking.

This issue's editorial is of the introspective variety and was written back in July around the time of the yard sale ...

Continued on page 6

Who Needs Bapak Anyway?

Vernon Contessa

Brothers and sisters, most of you are probably aware that there has been a lot of dialogue lately regarding the growth or lack thereof of Subud and what might be done about it. There have been all kinds of proposals to attract new folks as well as much reluctance to advertise or proselytize for Subud.

At the same time it has become clear that despite the fact that new people are being opened all the time, the overall size of the brotherhood has not substantially increased or decreased in the past 10 years. It is not difficult to draw the conclusion that we are indeed losing people already opened at about the same rate that we are opening new people.

Why is it that so many people come to Subud filled with hope and a genuine wish to worship God and end up leaving feeling frustrated and disappointed? How do we explain this tragic attrition rate and what can we do about it? And what, you might ask, has this got to do with "Who needs Bapak anyway?"

Regardless of what you may think about Bapak and his role in Subud, I ask that you bear with me for a moment and really try to feel the truth of what I am about to

Continued on page 4

Munawaroh English is an extraordinary woman who runs the Sine-Cera project in Australia. What follows is an epic tale and testimony of faith told in a series of letters from Munawaroh to her friend Richard. Munawaroh's email address is sinecera@bigpond.com.

The Story of Sine-Cera, Part 1 of 3

Munawaroh English

Hello to you all. Yes I have been silent for a while. So much to do when you are two month behind with all the work that needs doing before the summer heat arrives. I grow a lot of organic vegetables and lots of fruits and they all need lots of love and care to thrive as they do. Name it I most likely got it. And I enjoy the hard work. That is my WORSHIP. Rohana Salom nudged me, but I am afraid I will have to wait a few more weeks as the road needs re-graveling. I need to take some more donkey nuggets and some chicken manure to my trees, laden with stone fruits, lots of bunches of bananas etc. I think I told you what I spray my little friends with when they open their stoma and receive the nutrients as I play music to them. They all reward me so much with their lovely fruits and nuts. What a blessing to live in Paradise.

I also have to get ready for my cancer children next week and their families

Continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 News from Woodstock
- 3 SES Report
- 4 Letter from Indonesia
- 5 Visitors from Premier Hotels
- 8 Important Dates and Announcements

The Subud Boston Newsletter
Vol. 6/No. 3
December 1998

Editor

Lorena Kreda
48 Forest St. #301
Medford, MA 02155
lkreda@ibm.net

Publisher & Copy Editor

Kenneth Henderson
45 Estabrook Rd.
Concord, MA 01742
KenLuk@aol.com

Fashion Editor & Photographer

Michal Brownell
17 Brewster St.
Cambridge, MA 02138
michal2@ibm.net

Foreign Correspondent

Sharif & Tuti Horthy

The Subud Boston Newsletter is published bi-monthly by Subud Boston and sent free of charge to all Subud Boston members and affiliated regional members. The subscription rate for all other U.S. subscribers is \$18.00 per year. Outside the U.S., the rate is \$23.00 per year. Please address all subscriptions, editorial mail, manuscripts, and letters-to-the-editor to either Kenneth or Lorena at the addresses given above. Faxes may be sent to Kenneth; please call first.

More Subud Woodstock Tax News: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Helise Heijn (submitted July 28, 1998)

On March 12, 1998, some members of Subud Woodstock, their lawyer Steven Johnson, and the Barnard, Vt. Town Listers, met at a hearing at the Barnard Town Hall, in the presence of Elizabeth Koitto, a State Appraiser representing the Vermont Dept. of Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review. The hearing was held because Subud Woodstock was appealing the revocation of its tax exemption by the Town of Barnard (as explained in a prior issue of this newsletter). Ms. Koitto listened to the statements of Subud Woodstock and their lawyer; the listers, whose spokesperson was, as usual, John Lancaster, refused to answer any questions, or make any statements, on the grounds that the hearing was invalid, as the listers felt the matter was now one of legality, and should be heard in court. All statements made on the record were tape recorded. Ms. Koitto made clear that she would not be solely responsible for a decision; she would present the evidence to a meeting of her superiors, and we would be notified of their decision in due time, probably about two months.

In June our lawyer was notified that the State had decided in our favor; our Subud House on Perry Road in Barnard, and two acres, are to regain tax exempt status. You can imagine our relief and happiness when we heard that news.

However, few things in life being easy or simple, the story is not finished—"it ain't over 'til it's over." Barnard has the right to appeal the State's decision, and they are doing so. We are not sure of their grounds for appeal, but we can guess. The July issue of The Barnard Bulletin (edited by Mrs. John Lancaster!) has an article about the State's ruling on our tax exemption, and emphasizes that Ms. Koitto mentioned she "had no expertise in legal matters but only in appraising property," so we think they might make an issue of that. There was no mention in the article that the ultimate decision in the matter was made by several people, not only Ms. Koitto.

So the saga continues. Looks like there might be yet another installment in a future issue. Stay tuned folks!

Editor's note:

I spoke to Helise to see if anything new had transpired since this article was written. Neither she nor the lawyer representing the group has heard anything from the State regarding the town's appeal. The assumption is that it hasn't come up for review yet. In the meantime, George Helmer did some research on the current disposition of Woodstock's tax exempt status and found it to be in place and in good standing.

Year End Financials: The Treasurer Speaks!

Kenneth Henderson

As the year winds down, please take a moment to fill out your pledge cards for next year. The pledge cards were mailed in the middle of November. So far only a few have come in.

Also, for those who haven't completed their pledge commitment for 1998, now is the time!

The Subud Boston financials are available for viewing any time. Just let me know, and I will either bring a copy to Latihan or mail one to you.

Sine-Cera-Continued from page 1

whom we sponsor and I always do a Spring clean to receive my guests who also give me so much. God's children deserve a nice clean place to come to. I do all the cooking as that is very important to me as they ask: "Why does your food taste so good?" and my answer is always because I pray for you and I cook with love. I am very fortunate that I have a Saibaba friend who helps me with the food and she is so beautiful and quiet and connected to the great life force; I love the old lady dearly. She is 74.

We have both signed up with Mannatech, so we can make some money to sponsor more poor people and assist them. I am going to send the story of Sine-Cera which means transparency to you all.

Please, I do this very reluctantly as I am by nature very shy and do not like to talk about myself, but I have been urged so many times now to do it.

ALL GLORY AND CREDIT GOES TO GOD ALMIGHTY. I AM ONLY HIS SERVANT.

If I left anybody out of my story, please forgive me.

All my Love,
Munawaroh

Dear Richard,

We started the home in 1982 with NO money in our pocket, but I felt that on my 50th birthday I would get something big. As I was Matron, or administrator in a nursing home, the staff put on a party for me with a lot of relatives present and gave me a lot of lovely presents. I thought well, that was the best Birthday I ever had, I went home and I looked at the newspaper whilst having some tea with Labasir. An add caught my eye, where a hostel was going up for auction. I jokingly said to Labasir, I would like to go and see that. As usual, Labasir said OK let us go then.

The hostel was there and the owner showed us through it, but he said "If you are really interested, see those turrets through the trees, that is what you ought to buy." We had no intention of buying ANYTHING. So, just out of curiosity we went and asked the man in the garden if we could speak with the lady of the house.

She gave us tea and told us that we could make her an offer and she would consider it as she had already other people looking at it too. She wanted to go and see her mother in Ireland. As we were talking and telling her we had no money, she said, "Oh I have such a terrible headache, I would love you to stay for dinner." Labasir said to me, "Take her headache away." So I did.

At 8 PM we left. She had asked me about Aboriginal and I told her I had worked in the N.T. for most of my nursing life and was on the board of OPAL. "Oh", she said, "you know my niece." Yes, Daphnie. On leaving she told us she would get in touch with us. A few days later she rang us to say would we come by and make her an offer. She had gone to OPAL and asked Daphnie and Nathalie the administrator if they new Mrs. English. They asked her why, and she said, she wants to buy my home. They together said, sell it to her,

Continued on page 6

The Impact (or Non-impact) of Subud Enterprises on Subud

Hanafi Fravel, SES North American Zone Coordinator, recently sent us this report from a workshop conducted at the SES meeting in Santa Fe. The workshop (title the same as that of this article) produced a new approach to directing contributions from enterprises to social projects and/or the Subud organization. (This article also recently appeared in Subud USA Life.)

Report from the workshop

-Isaac Goff

It began by comparing the current situation in Subud Marin with how it was back in the 70's when Subud Marin had more than 100 members, when the group was alive, vital and things were happening. Members felt then that they were part of something that would change the world. There were several enterprises and social projects active at that time in Marin, and they employed and involved many, if not most of the members. We started a summer camp and day care school with help from donations from the enterprises. We had dinners and outings. We opened lots of new members. Scores of people did Ramadan together. In Carmel Valley a large and active group flourished around an enterprise called Stone, Post & Flower. It was a great time and what made it happen was that members were working together in enterprises and social projects.

Then the enterprises closed, the social projects ended or faded, people moved, dropped out, disappeared, group life flickered and died.

Now there is nothing going on in Marin. Three to six men at latihan and not always. Occasionally someone is opened, and most disappear after a while - what we offer didn't fill their needs. People occasionally come around inquiring- most don't come back- they didn't see what they were looking for.

What's happening?

What's happening is that when members are not working together in enterprises or social projects, there is no group life, and where there is no group life, there is no community, and when there is no community, existing members leave and new members don't come. This is because many people are looking to belong, to be part of something they can be proud of. When we offer only the austerity of two Latihans a week, a building in Jakarta and a School in Columbia and nothing more, we wind up with three men doing Latihan in a big empty hall. We need to change, to adapt, or perhaps go the way of the dinosaurs.

The workshop looked at the enterprises which were represented at the meeting and concluded they had little or no impact on members in general. For example, Dharma Trading Co. which employs 50 people, only one of which is a Subud member. Take Premier Hotels, a multi-million dollar

Continued on page 4

SES Workshop-Continued from page 3

enterprise, yet one which has little or no impact on local Subud groups. The workshop considered that the enterprise model we are using is missing the boat in two ways. First, by enterprises directing their donations in infrequent lumps towards the top of the Subud organizational structure, the local groups and therefore the membership are untouched and miss out.

Secondly, the model of giving 25% of an enterprise's profits doesn't (in most cases) work. This because it is usually interpreted as, "once we have a profit, then we'll find a way to give 25% to Subud." In actuality, this doesn't work in the USA because of US tax law which limits a Corporation's tax deductible contributions to 5% of net. Giving non-tax deductible donations is a waste. The alternative of giving 25% of a new enterprise's shares to Subud doesn't work either since few US Corporations want to declare dividends and be taxed twice. Besides, it plays havoc with trying to raise financing from non-Subud sources. It also doesn't work so well anywhere because it often winds up with an individual being faced with writing one giant check a year and lot's of stuff can get in the way of that happening. So, it's an uphill battle to do it this way and we need a new plan.

An alternative plan proposed at the workshop is that Subud through SES, "license" enterprises to call themselves "Subud Enterprises" and use a "Subud Enterprise" symbol on their stationary. In exchange, the enterprise agrees to pay a % of gross sales to Subud on a monthly basis. The enterprise itself decides on the %. It could be 1 % or a 1/4%, whatever. It could be estimated to wind up as 25% of profits, whatever, but once agreed, it gets paid each month just like the rent and utilities, and just like the rent it is fully tax deductible, in this case as a licensing fee. The enterprise retains the right to direct the money each month to wherever in Subud it prefers. It might direct it to the local group, or to a particular organizational or social project, or different places each month.

The benefits of this approach appeared to the workshop to be its perceived attractiveness to the enterprises, the steady monthly flow of funds, and the possibility of funds being directed towards funding activity at the group level.

Bapak's advice about the value of members working together in enterprises and social projects was noted and the workshop concluded that while starting enterprises on the group level is quite difficult, starting social projects is easier. If each group could begin getting together to talk about initiating a small local social project we might begin to breathe life back into our Subud groups.

Who Needs Bapak?-Continued from page 1 say.

We can learn what is the right way to look after and care for people after they are opened in Subud from Bapak's example.

After Bapak opened people he did not just leave them alone to fend for themselves. With a complete lack of self-interest, and at great personal expense, he devoted his entire life to traveling all over the world visiting Subud people and giving many, many explanations and clarifications and much

Continued on page 5

Raymond Lee Writes from Indonesia-11/14/98

Here we go again!

Its 7 PM and I am in Pamulang. Ibu Rahayu and all of us are safe.

This is the fifth day in a series of escalating confrontations between the students and the armed forces.

The students attempted to march to parliament to present their demands for a temporary presidium to be installed and for an investigation into Suharto's wealth.

For four days there have been running street battles between troops and students as troops blocked them from moving to parliament. Orders were to keep the students out. No attempts were made by the political leaders to meet the students.

Yesterday, during the closing session of parliament, as Habibie spoke, a battle raged at the clover leaf intersection on Jl Sudirman about 1 kilometer from S Widjojo Centre.

When morning came 12 students were dead and hundreds wounded. The army reportedly used sharp shooters to pick students out.

People from the slum areas joined the students and the rioting has started to spread around the city.

A student friend, who was at Semanggi, called just now to say that the students will not back down until Wiranto, the head of the armed forces, resigns.

Rioting and looting has started in various parts of the city. We may be in for some difficult days ahead.

We get information from the radio, TV and calling friends.

The best source is a radio station called Sonora. It is the most boring station in normal times. But at times like this, everyone listens to it nonstop.

Its secret: a network of reporters giving traffic reports every ten minutes interspersed with pop classics and a sweet syrupy presenter.

A typical report is as follows:

Music - 'Leaving on a jet plane'

Syrupy female announcer - 'Now listeners, let's have a traffic report from our associate Ahmed at Senen'

Ahmed - 'There are thousands of people surrounding the shopping centre and throwing stones - Background sounds of a mob. 'They have surrounded the police station' - Sound of shots being fired. 'Now its back to the studio.

Syrupy announcer: - 'That's the traffic report from Ahmed, dear listeners, and now for some soothing music from The Carpenters'.

It surreal - but highly accurate.

I'll keep you informed as events progress.

-Raymond

Who Needs Bapak?-Continued from page 4

guidance about what we can expect to encounter on the spiritual path and in the course of our latihan. In his talks, he repeatedly stressed how important and beneficial it was for us to hear and receive these kinds of explanations. Clearly Bapak did not feel that just opening people and then leaving them to do their latihan was enough. We can all truly benefit from the kinds of explanations, clarifications and guidance he went to such great lengths to give to us.

Well, you say, that is all right for Bapak because he was a special person with a mission from Almighty God and we do the best we can to look after newly opened people but there is really no one to play such a role any longer in Subud.

I agree. However, we must remember that anyone opened in the past 10 years has no experience of Bapak except possibly through his books and talks. And this, finally, brings me to the purpose of this article.

As you may know there has been a massive effort by the Subud Translation Unit in Jakarta, Indonesia to freshly translate all of Bapak's talks from the original Indonesian and to publish them as a series of books. Volumes 1 and 2 are now available and volume 3 will be available very soon. These can be purchased directly from Subud Publications International, Subud U.S.A. or possibly through your center.

Volume one contains 45 talks in English translation given between June 1957 and June 1958 during Bapak's historic first world tour which signaled the arrival of Subud in the West.

Brothers and sisters, it is really amazing how fresh and alive these new translations are. In these talks Bapak was speaking to newly opened people and gives simple uplifting explanations of the meaning and purpose of Subud and much guidance and insight into what may be encountered by each of us on our spiritual path. I have been reading Bapak for over 30 years and I must confess that it was as if I was encountering some of this for first time while reading this book. I came away from this volume convinced that anyone who reads this and takes its content to heart and is really able to put it into practice could not possibly go wrong or lose their way on the spiritual path.

Volume one is so obviously perfect for newly opened people that the helpers in our group have taken it upon themselves to make a gift of this book to each and every newly opened member. I would suggest that you might want to consider this for your own groups.

Volume two contains 22 talks in English translation accompanied by the original Indonesian and covers the period between June 1958 and April 1959 following Bapak's return to the East after his first world tour. The talks were recorded in Jakarta, Malang, Colombo, Singapore, Yogyakarta, Tokyo, Mexico City, Caracas and Santiago. Again, the difference between the fresh translations and the provisional translations which we are accustomed to reading is striking. The talks contain much that Bapak felt was necessary for us to hear and feel.

So who needs Bapak anyway? The answer is we all still do. Probably more now than when he was here with us. If we were really able to receive and understand the reality of

the advice and guidance Bapak has given us and were able to put it into practice in our latihan and life we would not be asking ourselves why does Subud not grow.

Visitors from Premier Hotels

Lorena Kreda

Two managing directors of Premier Hotels Plc (Premier), Conrad Aldridge and Michael van der Matten, visited Subud Boston Dec. 4-6. Conrad and Michael are longtime Subud members who together with six others (four in Subud) form the board of directors of Premier. Boston was their third stop on a two week tour of the States. The purpose of their visit was threefold:

- Update present shareholders on the current status of the enterprise
- Solicit new investors both in Premier and a new enterprise called Meeting Places Plc
- Spark interest in similar ventures in the US
- Share their success story, an inspiring collaboration of individual skills

Premier (established 1994) sprang out of an ongoing project to renovate a dilapidated 200 year old Scottish estate called the House of Gray. This house and surrounding grounds located in Dundee Scotland, is being transformed by Conrad, Michael, *et. al.* into a hotel and conference center. Conrad and Michael began this project in 1990 and sought partnership with others who possessed hotel operating skills to complement their talents for project management and site development. Through contacts made during the course of this project, the original team of five grew into the current eight member board of Premier.

The product that Premier offers is limited-service or budget hotels. In 1996 Premier signed a franchise agreement with Holiday Inn to develop at least 1500 Holiday Inn Express (HIE) rooms in the UK. Subsequently in 1997, Premier signed an exclusive 25 year master franchise agreement with Cendant to develop the Days Inn and Howard Johnson brands in the UK. More recently, Premier has an option to extend this exclusive 25 year master franchise agreement with Cendant to develop the Days Inn and Howard Johnson brands in Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy and the Benelux countries. In support of these endeavors, a 1998 study by Arthur Anderson showed the budget hotel market represented only 5% of total room stock compared with 21% in both France and the US.

There are presently four HIE hotels open, all of which are operating above budget. Three HIE hotels are due to open in December 1998, additional five are under construction, and seven are due to commence construction. The overall plan calls for a total of 30 hotels (HIE, HoJo, and Days Inn) to be operating by the end of 1999.

Financing for Premier has come from a variety of sources. 85% of the first four hotels was funded by Subud investors,

Continued on page 7

Editorial-Continued from page 1

When the Unknown Becomes Familiar and Vice-versa

I take great comfort in the familiar as many people do. Fear of the unknown may be one of the most paralytic forces in life. It keeps us stuck in bad jobs, unhappy marriages, and bad states of health. Our fear of change gets reinforced by society's codes of conduct and value systems that tout the "American dream" with the price tag that requires the bad-job salary. Up until recently divorce was an excommunicatable sin within the Catholic church, and where would we be without our problems and ailments to define us and give us something to talk about?

Fear is also blinding. The longer I stay stuck in a situation, state of mind or state of health the more deeply entwined and infiltrated the indoctrination becomes. It can get to the point where it becomes more and more difficult to even conceive of alternatives let alone seek and go after them. The latihan is a marvelous means of facing fears and once in a while, God willing, a block in the wall of fear gets knocked loose. Eventually a hole big enough to crawl through forms and one small evolutionary step at least becomes an option.

I'm realizing this may be starting to sound morose and tremendously difficult. If so, it's appropriate because facing fears is very, very hard. Growth can be heart-wrenchingly difficult because moving forward necessarily involves letting go. Like leaving the safe edge of a pool before diving in or jumping from a perfectly good airplane. Letting go creates a void, a loss and this must never be ignored. My analogies involving pool-sides and airplanes are imperfect because in these cases there really is nothing wrong with remaining out of the pool or inside the airplane, whereas remaining trapped within our fears is really a bad place to be. How powerful the grip of the familiar!

Apparently there really aren't that many different kinds of fears to trap us. Loads of books have been written with many different slants on the issues so that us humans can wrestle with them should we choose and maybe find a perspective that is more resonant with our individual experience. There are issues with family, food, men, women, confidence, self-esteem, power, anger, sexuality, addictions — the list is endless, but at the core of the hindrance to overcoming a problem in any area boils down to a fear of change, a fear of the unknown or conversely a comfortable attachment to the familiar.

As human sharing in the experience of life, it is sometimes comforting to rely on others for support, encouragement, a hug or an "atta-girl[boy]" pat on the back. One fear I have is losing my ability to be empathic, to be able to provide that support and encouragement to someone else. God knows so many countless people have been there for me and I am eternally grateful to those individuals. I hope one day to be able to be that encourager to someone else though I am not oblivious to how difficult that may be at times. Service to others is extremely important, but we need to be grounded in a place of strength from which to channel energy outward.

"In the event of a loss of cabin pressure secure your own mask first, then assist a child travelling with you." Putting your own needs before the needs of others can be challenging at times but it's probably more efficient that way. The quicker we get through our own mess the quicker (and therefore longer) we'll be able to help others through their's. However, it doesn't help much if the ability to empathize is lost along with the problems that are overcome. Sometimes when I see a friend struggling to deal with an issue with which I once struggled, I'm tempted to say "oh just get over it." I don't of course, but the temptation disturbs me nonetheless. The Bible says "rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep" — *Romans 12:15*.

If we take that leap from the familiar to the unknown, after a while that unknown will then become familiar. It's important not to forget the past from whence we came. Be conscious of the lessons learned and the context of the teachers because someday there may be someone facing similar challenges who just needs a hug to help them along their way.

Sine-Cera-Continued from page 3

she will make a success out of it.

We called a meeting of some Subud friends and discussed the possibility of setting up an alternate health care facility, mainly for elderly people. In the nursing home where I was boss, I had taken all the patients off their medications, apart from heart cases and put them on herbs, to the great delight of the relatives, as most of them came out of their zombie states and the rest is history.

The meeting felt it would be a good idea; let us form a committee with just the four of us. One went on a fund raising trip, we paid for the fare, around Australia and we asked for loans at 10% or donations. People gave us \$45,000. Also Labasir and myself put in a lot of money, so we went back to Margaret and told her this is what we have. She took it and offered it to us for \$350.00 Dp (\$40,000) and at an interest of 4% per year to be paid over a 10 year period.

We had great success with our rehab program, so much that the doctors in various hospitals would send us cases that they said they did not know what to do with and they had only a few years to live. Some went home and others stayed with us living a full life.

We worked long hours seven days a week voluntarily and Labasir went on a pension as he was 10 years in oz and so we had a small income. We had a very small room in the home, after we did the renovations on it and had 22 patients. We registered the charity as we had found a few doors up a solicitor who did it all for us. We wrote up our own constitution and our solicitor did everything for free. We got tax exemption and all the goodies that go with it. After living about 6 months in this small room, the house at the back of us was up for sale and again we negotiated with the owner to let us have it on a \$11,000 deposit and pay it off in 3 years. They agreed and we paid it off.

Continued on page 7

Sine-Cera-Continued from page 6

That was \$5,000.00 a month we had to pay. Our residents paid a very low fee but it was enough to have enough every month and also pay off some of the loans. Then Murray Clapham came on the scene.

When we had our first AGM he visited us and became a member of Morningside C.A.R.E., Inc and asked us if we would like to have his quarter share of Affinity, his race horse. We needed a new fridge and he gave us the winnings of the race of that afternoon. Then Affinity won the big cup a few years later and Murray gave us \$30,000 with our promise that we would only use the interest and the capital would only be used for our next project, which came to me during Ramadhan in detail. It was for "rehabilitation of families and youth and also an alternate health facility."

After seven years I felt we should sell the home and start looking for land. We did and after a lot of searching we came on a 100 acre piece of land, which we thought might be useful. I made an appointment with the council president to see if we would be able to build there. As Labasir and I drove into the town, we simultaneously said "No, we must NOT buy that property." We went to see the man anyway.

On our way home I said to Labasir "There is a surprise waiting for us." There was a letter from somebody we did not know, but she had read in an article in the Susila Dharma magazine about us and sent \$2000.00 for our own use. I must take you back here a bit. I had been to England to a SDIA meeting in Anugraha. There I met up with an old friend of mine from South Africa. She asked me to come and visit her I told her I would like to, but I have to ask our board. The article that appeared in the SDIA paper was written up by your present editor. Labasir told her the story. He was in the USA to fix up his pension.

So, when I was home again I told the board what the request was and that I felt, we should include South Africa in our fund raising. A few days later I felt I should look in the paper as our property would be advertised in there. There was a property for sale just over the border into N.S.W. I rang up and the owner told me, yes come and see it. So Labasir and our secretary went to see it. \$55,000 for 100 acres. Where would we get that sort of money, we only had \$30,000 from Affinity and some little bit from the home income? I told the board one night that I would like to ask for guidance during our Latihan about the South Africa trip. So we did and all received I should go. I thanked the lady for the money (\$2,000) she sent us and how wonderful that I was to go to South Africa. She immediately sent some more money. I went via Singapore and visited Murray as we could at that time not fly direct.

I was welcomed in Johannesburg as if I was the queen of Sheba and everywhere I went, Durban and Capetown. I told them the reason I had come, and the reply I got everywhere, "But you cannot take money out of the country and the Rand is worth nothing outside of South Africa." I told them to give it to me and I would know what to do with it and in case I was not successful in the exchanging of it, I would give it back to them. Capetown and Durban, same story. Lots of money. And then.....

Let me keep you in suspense until another day.
My Love to you,
Munawaroh

Premier Hotels-Continued from page 5

60% from Simon Guerrand and 25% from other individuals. With an established enterprise, Premier was able to secure additional funding through major banks and investment firms. These include Merrill Lynch/Simon Xavier Guerrand Hermes Fund, Close Brothers' Venture Capital Trust, Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank with the Yuill Trust.

Out of Premier has sprung yet another enterprise: Meeting Places. Meeting Places' business plan consists of operating small-sized meeting facilities adjacent to existing Premier-owned hotels providing space for meetings of up to 25 persons (a neglected market), break-out spaces, receptions area, and food preparation facilities. Meeting Places will partner with Premier who will build the facility and lease it to Meeting Places. A majority Subud presence on the Meeting Places board of directors would facilitate local Subud centers' use of the space for latihan and gatherings at little or no charge during the evenings and weekends when it would otherwise be vacant. One idea is that a Subud entity, such as Subud UK, may one day purchase the Meeting Places facility from Premier thus assuming the income stream to pay the mortgage and use for Subud purposes. Meeting Places would continue to assume all operational responsibilities.

What does all this mean for Subud Boston? There will be a meeting called to discuss this very soon. Additional details about everything written here are also available through Stuart Cooke.

Thank you Kenton and Larissa!

This year's Christmas party was held Saturday evening, the 5th of December at the Hensley's home in Westborough. For those who were able to come, this was a particularly special gathering, and the timing was especially nice since it coincided with the visit of Michael and Conrad from England. We were able to entertain our guests in grand style! Those who were unable to attend were missed but thought of fondly and held close in spirit, particularly Peter and Jillian who are on holiday in South Africa.

All of this was possible because of the very generous and gracious hospitality of Kenton and Larissa. When Kenton organizes an event, you can be sure that no detail is left unconsidered and Larissa's eye for art and color was reflected in every light that twinkled, candle that glowed and evergreen bough that scented the air to create a festive spirit throughout the house. We all had a wonderful time together and so very much appreciate your hosting this party. Thank you!

Birthdays

DECEMBER

- 7 Sonia Owens
- 11 Peter Baptiste
Kenneth Henderson
- 14 Maria Contessa
- 27 Marcella Cooke
- 31 Viviana Mason

JANUARY

- 11 Hermia Salisbury
- 17 Sharif Horthy
- 20 Mitchell Zeigler
- 21 Penelope Sullivan
- 26 Vernon Contessa

Dates to Remember

DECEMBER

- 19 Ramadan begins that evening the fast begins on December 20
- 20 Helper/Committee meeting at 4:30

JANUARY

- 3 Helper/Committee meeting at 4:30
- 17 Helper/Committee meeting at 4:30
- 18 Ramadan ends at sunset
- ? Idul Fitr exact time and place to be determined

FEBRUARY

- 7 Helper/Committee meeting at 4:30
- 14 Quarterly membership business meeting and potluck supper at the church at 4:30
- 21 Helper/Committee meeting at 4:30

Announcements

Group Night Out to Club Passim

At a loss for what to do on New Year's eve? Uninspired by the traditional party prospects? Here's just the alternative you're looking for! Kenton and Andrea have organized a

night out to see Ellis Paul, an up-and-coming folk singer at Club Passim December 31st. This is by no means a Subud-only event but rather a perfect opportunity to do something with both Subud and non-Subud friends. The group will meet at 5:30 at Club Passim for dinner prior to the show; the show starts at 7:30. Tickets are \$17 not including dinner. Club Passim is located on 47 Palmer Street in Cambridge. Please RSVP to Kenton as soon as you can!

IMPORTANT Investment Meetings

The following two meetings will be held after the regular Sunday evening latihan:

Jan 3 Information and discussion about the possibility of investing a portion of the Subud Boston housing fund in Premier Hotels Plc and/or Meeting Places Plc. (See article page 5)

Jan 10 Vote on Subud Boston's investment strategy. It is very important that the entire group be represented at this meeting.

The Virtual Presence of Subud Boston

Kenneth Henderson

Thanks to the effort of Vernon Contessa, Subud Boston now has its own website on the Internet. For the time being, you can check us out at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~vcontessa>. In the near future, we will have our own registered domain which will be subudboston.org.

All the shown links are active. Be sure to check the library page which has several talks by Bapak and Ibu Rahayu as well as the complete *Susila Budhi Dharma* and Bapak's autobiography. Eventually the library will contain some fifty talks, all of which can be downloaded.

We welcome comments and commentary. Please forward them to either Vernon at vcontessa@earthlink.net or me at kenluk@aol.com.

The SubudBoston Newsletter

45 Estabrook Road
Concord, MA 01742