

The Subud Boston *newsletter*

Newsletter of Subud Boston Inc.

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Editorial

The two most important things from which we take our cultural identity have been the place where we live and our language. But now the technological development of our era has created a situation in which *place* is a less and less important element in defining who we are. It is not just the rich who travel. People from all walks of life and in all parts of the world find themselves migrating and living in places their parents would never have dreamed of living in. There is tremendous opportunity in this transformation but also the possibility of enormous tragedy. As people move away from their homes they also move away from the language and the culture of their parents. In fact, languages, like species of endangered creatures, are dying out all over the world.

We who speak English are often not aware of this process because English has become the trans-national language. Everywhere one goes today one can find English spoken. This gives us English speakers a tremendous advantage wherever we go. But also, though we may not want this to be the case, it means that it is English and the Anglo-American cultural values that go with it that are replacing the languages and cultures of the peoples

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What Makes School Good?

Myrna Kassalias

Growing up I went to many different schools as we moved around. All were disappointing. Finally, the day came when I was to go to secondary school. I got that same feeling of expectation. Maybe something really interesting would happen! For the most part, though, nothing changed. The teaching methods followed the latest trends in educational psychology. Whatever was going on, it didn't fit with me.

By the time I was fifteen, I was seriously uninterested in school. My mother was in despair about my future. Believing that the private sector had more to offer, she transplanted me from an average state school to a top public school. The culture shock left me reeling. The work was so intense that it took me many months to get a feel for it. Unfortunately, this wasn't the answer either. The balance had tipped the other way towards too much rigidity and pressure. When I left school I still had no idea who I was, what I was truly capable of, or what I really wanted to do.

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Chairperson's Corner

Lorena Kreda

This month I'd like to share some ideas and thoughts that were inspired by the women's meeting we held at my apartment on February 23. There was no agenda for the day which allowed the meeting to evolve naturally. For me it was a very powerful gathering—an opportunity to realize a spiritual strength much greater than the sum of ourselves as individuals.

Much of the meeting was spent talking about what each of us did for work. This is a side of each other that we all know very little about. There were several common themes to that which occupies our time including a connection, either direct or indirect, to writing, printing, or publishing. Many of us are also at a juncture of some sort either facing a potential job change or pursuing a different focus area within a current job. Most of us also feel over scheduled, to the point that we have very little choice about what we do at any given moment.

I had had a conversation with Kenneth recently where I explained how I'm always thinking that as soon as I finish this proposal or particular task at work I can relax and not put in so many hours. Now it's as soon as I get all unpacked and settled in my new place, then I can look forward and exercise some vision about the future. But it seems like there will always be something else that will need to get finished first.

Kenneth's response was a quote: "Are you a human being or a human

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The Subud Internet Presence

Hanafi Houbart

(The following article is excerpted from a longer article by Hanafi Houbart that appeared in the January edition of "Subud Voice". Many people know Hanafi as the man who single-handedly engineered the Subud ListServer. The first part of his article dealt with his reasons for closing the ListServer down and with the issue of censorship on the internet.)

Over-emphasis on the use of English on the Internet

The chart accompanying this article shows the average distribution of Subud Internet users in the world today. Nearly half of all these users are US citizens and 80%—or four in every five—are Subud members in one of four English-speaking countries. Far from being a "global" communications facility, the Subud Internet presence is overwhelmingly an English-speaking phenomenon.

The World Subud Association (WSA) has done a superb job in ensuring that their Internet presence is available in English, French, Indonesian and Spanish. This excellent example aside, all other Subud and Subud related Web sites (bar one in German) are in English. I believe that this over-emphasis on the use of English may create long term structural problems in the evolution of the World Subud organization.

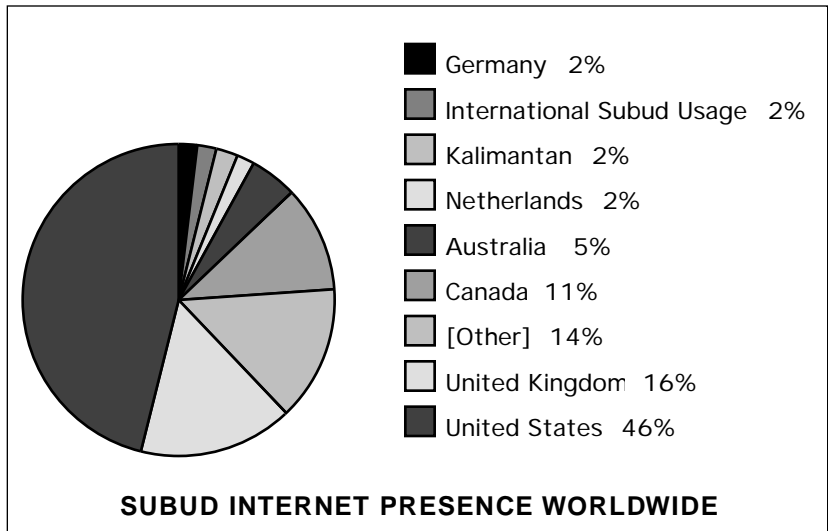
Currently we are at a time of transition in the computerization of Subud organizations. Some countries like the UK, US and others, have (relatively) sophisticated stand-alone computer facilities used by their National organizations to improve efficiency in operational

services like paper-based communications, accountancy and membership rosters.

The US is further advanced in interconnecting smaller organizational "units" at group and regional level, largely because a National communications network was established long before the Internet became so ubiquitous.

The UK is more typical—a few people involved in organizational affairs, here and there, become "wired-up" to the net, forming small micro-networks of organizational communication. But in general an ordered evolutionary strategy is missing and no or very little mainstream Subud money is made available to expand the volunteer user base.

This is certain to change over time. Businesses (and entities that organize like businesses) are finding it increasingly difficult to operate without the use of modern computing technology—simply



because so many other entities also use it and expect to be able to interact commercially using the Internet.

Those Subud countries, which currently dominate the Subud Internet presence, will in all probability, become advanced in the full use of Organizational Computing earlier than others because a critical mass of volunteer users already exists. The real problem is that whilst it is possible to man-

handle the ISC to another country every four or five years, it is not always possible to move computers—power sockets, language differences, legal requirements and computational skills are just the simple problems.

What happens when Subud's organization moves to a country where computers are still rare?

This is the emergent difficulty, in all probability ISC could move from the US to a non-English speaking country at the next World Congress, yet the control and ownership of its organizational computing will remain in the hands of an English-speaking Subud entity. So there is a risk that we may begin to create precisely the kind of permanent control in World Subud that moving the ISC is supposed to prevent—simply by doing nothing, or by doing too little too late.

In reality, the use of organizational computing within Subud is still at a fairly immature stage, and most Subud Internet usage is by dedicated volunteers who simply want Subud to make the best use of an amazing tool. Subud members in general lend a kind of benevolent curiosity towards these activities—such a *laissez-faire* attitude to the organization is very comfortable for those Subud people who have no interest in the subject. However, this is not a viable policy option for World Subud in the longer term.

What is now needed

We need to ensure that any Global Subud computing facility we may create is distributed across as many physical sites and as many language boundaries as is possible—and that means money in significantly large amounts. What is needed from the next World Congress is a clear set of policies that:

- provides a framework for the future development of the Subud Internet presence;
- sustains the outstanding levels of world-wide co-operation and goodwill seen so far;
- and a determination to fund future evolution in a meaningful way.

Finally, those handful of individuals who have pioneered the evolution of the Subud Internet presence need personal support. Rashid Butte, Webmaster for WSA has done excellent work—but he is supported by WSA. What about Hamid Kennedy who has single-handedly hosted the Kalimantan Support Group's Web Site as well as the delightfully irreverent Subud Youth Page? And one of the most important developments is Hussein McGaw's attempts at establishing a low-cost Freemail service to help get more members onto the Internet particularly those in deprived circumstances. Most of this dedication is unrecognized and unsupported by Subud in general. Δ

World Congress Fund Raiser

It's a simple idea, really. What is one thing everybody has? That's right—a refrigerator. And what do many people have on their refrigerator? —magnets. Subud Boston hopes to cash in on this small but critical market niche in a modest fundraising effort.

We hope to construct 500 fridge magnets in time to sell at the World Congress. They will be sold for \$1-\$5, for a potential profit of \$1,000 for our housing fund. Andrea and Dorothea will be handling all the production details.

In order to succeed, we need to collect materials for the project. This includes any of the following:

- Scraps of small wood pieces, leftover lumber, dowels, old broom sticks, small frames, boxes & boards.
- Colorful, decorative paper, such as used wrapping paper, greeting cards, product packaging, old books with pictures, gift bags, stamps, candy wrappers, etc.
- Miscellaneous knick-knacks measuring about 2 inches in any direction, such as old jewelry, tiny boxes, miniatures, Cracker Jack freebies.
- glue (any kind), exacto blades, small paint brushes, sand paper, and labels.

We are collecting donations at every latihan. Call Andrea at 864-3990 or Dorothea at 864-1692.

Quote of Note

...the masculine tenor of God-talk is particularly problematic in English. In Hebrew, Arabic and French, however, grammatical gender gives theological balance that is often lacking in English. Thus in Arabic *al-Lah*, the supreme name for God, is grammatically masculine, but the word for the divine and inscrutable essence of God, *al-Dhat*, is feminine.

—Karen Armstrong, *A History of God*

School—continued from page 1

When I was twenty one my daughter was born. I was determined to find an educational solution other than the system that had failed me. But despite my efforts I haven't yet found the answer. Sandra is at present in a Rudolf Steiner school which I thought was sufficiently different from traditional schools and which had something real to offer. But experience shows me that the teachers are too rigid in their own peculiar Steiner way. The reality is that each child has his own individual nature, his own interests, pace of learning, and way of learning—so it seems that any school which lays down it's own particular ideas on educational psychology as the answer for all children will inevitably fail the majority. My search for a school that really serves children as individuals is continuing.

A few weeks ago I came home feeling particularly awake and inspired. I took a copy of Human Enterprise to bed and read a couple of sections. Suddenly something clicked about education. A couple more insights came to me, but as I had to be up early in the morning I put out my light in a bid to get to sleep. As I lay in bed I could feel the latihan in my chest and in my tongue and for a while I basked in the feeling. Then I began to feel the flow of thoughts again so I sat up and talked for over an hour about what is needed to create a school that has real content. Everything I said was accompanied by feeling the latihan and for the most part surprised me with the sheer simplicity of it all.

Every child goes to school with an expectation—be it to learn to read, to make friends, or to experience a wider physical space and new physical challenges with it. Very few schools meet these expectations fully, if at all. A school that can meet these expectations will result in a feeling of satisfaction for each child. Following on from this is the necessity of meeting the real needs of each child, needs which the child himself may not be aware of. Thus, the environment within the school has to be one which is very wide in scope in order to meet the needs of each individual child. Yet it is crucial not to mistake this for filling a school with too many resources. Too many stimulating things can create a crowded and confusing environment for some children. There has to be balance both within the school building and on the grounds. Quiet, cozy corners are important as a place of respite inside. In the garden, beautiful, peaceful corners are just as important as climbing frames and nature ponds.

Children and roses reflect their care.

—Anonymous

A school environment should be one which can contain the feelings of the children as they change, grow, and develop so that each child can truly express himself. A child who can express his own nature, giving something of himself to that which inspires him, will be fed inwardly. This will result in a feeling of value and worth. It is from that point that confidence can grow based on the reality of knowing oneself. Quite simply, if a child is able to follow his inner feeling according to his own nature, then that child will begin to learn and understand things which are important to himself.

For a Subud school to make a difference it needs to be alive, contain all of the above elements and be relevant to the world in every way so that children really learn the skills of living in this world as human beings. The central focus of a Subud school is to create an environment where children can experience and work with the four lower forces in very simple ways, yet on a practical level.

- **Material**—The material force is the most obvious and prevalent force in all schools. Children learn about it through practical work, thinking and manipulation of materials.
- **Vegetable**—experience with the vegetable force comes with having a natural garden where the children are encouraged to care for the flowers, fruit and vegetables. The children can use the fruit and vegetables whenever a meal is being prepared.
- **Animal**—Children can gain experience with animal forces by keeping a small range of animals such as chicken, sheep and a cow if possible, which are cared for by the children and also provide eggs, wool and milk. A few domestic animals would also be a natural part of this.
- **Human**—The human force, too, is all around in the form of people, but real human values need to be in evidence. On the lighter side, to enhance the feeling of community, social events can be organized by the children for birthdays, festivals, visiting guests and so on.

I realized that such a project would be an ambitious one, requiring strong financial support, solid plans to enable it to become self supporting as soon as possible, and a dedicated team of people willing to work hard for it to become a reality; but by the time this experience had finished I was in awe of the simplicity, how obvious everything seemed. I also felt the urgency of it, that it really needs to happen now and with the full support of a lot of people.

Myrna Kassalias is a Greek/Scottish Subud member in Lewes, England. She has recently started a miniature enterprise selling bread and cakes to Subud members as part of her efforts to get to Spokane next summer. Δ

World Congress Enterprise Exhibition

Subud Enterprise Services International (SES) will be hosting an Enterprise Exhibition at the upcoming World Congress in Spokane, Washington. This event will be held over three afternoons at Congress and will give entrepreneurs the opportunity to present their enterprises to Subud members from all over the world.

By taking a booth at the exhibition, Subud entrepreneurs will be able to show their support for Subud Enterprise and will have a chance to develop contacts with attendees and other exhibitors. Exhibitors may also have the opportunity to deduct their travel cost to and from Spokane, as well as 2 to 3 nights accommodation, as a business expense. Your tax advisor can tell you whether this deduction would qualify as a valid business expense for your company.

The Enterprise Exhibition will take place in the main ballrooms and foyer area of the Ridpath Hotel, which is located in downtown Spokane. Booths will cost \$US 300 for a 10' x 10' fully carpeted and draped booth that includes a 6' draped table, two chairs, electricity and a display sign. SES is also offering a more basic way of presenting one's enterprise in the form of draped display tables located in the foyer area of the hotel. The fee for these tables is \$US 100. These rates are in effect until March 31, 1997. After that date, the

rates will increase to \$US 400 for booths and \$US 130 for display tables.

All exhibitors will be featured in the Show Guide, which will be given to attendees at the exhibition. There will be a 150-200 word write-up on each enterprise in the show guide so that visitors can learn about the different enterprises before they attend.

A number of successful Subud enterprises have already indicated that they will take booth space at the Enterprise Exhibition. These include: Connelly Temple Limited, Kalimantan Investment Corporation, Bulau Vras Indah Jewelry, Kalimantan Plantations Ltd. and Rofin Australia.

Exhibit space is limited as there are only 45 booths and 30 table displays available. Space is being allocated on a first come, first served basis so entrepreneurs are encouraged to book their booth space as soon as possible. For further information, please contact: Rifka Bullen, Subud Enterprise Services, 2729 W. Mallon Avenue, Spokane, WA 99201 USA. Phone: 509-328-9703, Fax: 509-328-2530 E-mail: rifka@foothills.eznet.com.

To reserve a booth, please complete the following form and send

it to Rifka Bullen.

I would like to be an Exhibitor at the World Congress Enterprise Exhibition:

Company Name	Payment:
Contact	<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Draft / Money Order Enclosed <i>Please make bank draft / money order payable to: "Subud Enterprise Services / Rifka Bullen"</i>
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card Payment
City State/Prov	Amount
Postal Code Country	Visa/MasterCard Number
Phone Fax	Expiration Date
E-mail	Signature
Type of Booth	Send Completed Form to: Rifka Bullen Subud Enterprise Services International, 2729 W. Mallon Avenue Spokane, WA 99201 USA, Phone: 509-328-9703 Fax: 509-328-2530 E-mail: rifka@foothills.eznet.com
<input type="checkbox"/> 10x10 (\$US 300)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Display Table (\$US 100)	

January Membership Meeting

Dorothea Gillim

Outside on that late January night it was cold and dark, but the 25 or so members who attended the recent Quarterly Meeting filled the St. Andrews Church with light and warmth. Since our last major gathering focused primarily on business, the Committee decided to dedicate this one to kejiwaan matters. And since the meeting coincided with one of Ramadan's Nights of Power, the focus seemed especially auspicious.

After completing the latihan, members gathered for the usual potluck dinner extraordinaire. While folks ate birthday cake (in honor of the 50th anniversary of Subud's establishment as a bureaucratic entity), our fearless leader Lorena Kreda discussed important business. Topping the list was talk of the '97 calendar and its highlights. On May 18th, we will invite regional helpers to our next quarterly meeting, tentatively to be held in the same Westborough church in which regional members met last spring. Also of note is the grand opening gala of the new Subud New York house—a dinner dance on April 19th. We're looking into renting a van and finding inexpensive accommodations for anyone interested in going (details to come).

Then, we discussed the upcoming World Congress. A show of hands indicated that Subud Boston will be well represented! A few members (Marcella & Stuart Cooke, Gillian Hensley, and Cassidy Sterling) even have official posts. There will be many opportunities to volunteer. Look for upcoming announcements.

Our valiant Treasurer Kenneth Henderson gave a promising report on our financial status. Then, Andrea Blum and myself presented an idea for a fundraising project (see "World Congress Fundraiser"). The evening culminated with the screening of a Bapak talk. As is customary, heads nodded and eyes closed under the powerful force of Bapak's words.

The turn out for the meeting and the high spirits were particularly noteworthy and appreciated by all. Special recognition goes out to those regional folks who made the journey to be with us, including Latham Stack of Woodstock, Walt & Nanji Thornton and Hermia Salisbury of Quabbin. We were also honored by the presence of our Indonesian guest, Asmir Agus. Thanks all for your support. And be sure to mark your calendars with the next Quarterly Meeting scheduled for May 18th.

Recent and Not-So-Recent News from Upper Quabbin

Hillel Natanson

Thomas Potter was opened in January. Thomas, who is the father of two children, is an environmental research scientist at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Robert and Susan Madrigan returned to Central Massachusetts last summer after three years in Ecuador, where they were opened. They and their three children are now living in Northfield. Robert is an entrepreneur and consultant with business in South America which keeps him moving between New England and Ecuador. Susan teaches Spanish part-time at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. Robert was the chairman of the Quito group during their last year there.

Late last fall, about six of the men in the group spent two Saturdays building a room for latihan in **Walt Jaworski's** barn. The unheated space we had been using was too large to heat, so we built two new walls, added a door, and installed a gas stove in a new room which is still quite large but can now be heated up in a very reasonable amount of time prior to latihan.

Henrietta Robinson recently spent three weeks in India and Nepal. She was traveling for her employer, the School for International Training, getting an in-person education in their Indian programs. She was recently transferred to their Asian section. Two highlights included a visit to **Issac** (Dr. Mathai), a homeopathic doctor who many members of the Subud groups in Massachusetts have seen over the years. Another highlight was being in Dharmasala, the Tibetan capital-in-exile, during the grand festivities of the Tibetan New Year celebration. That's it from the Wild West. Δ

A Conversation Part II

Sharif & Tuti Horthy,
Jillian Hensley, & Stuart Cooke

This is a conversation that took place last spring. We published the first half in the September issue.

JILLIAN: Why England? Why did you decide to go there? Or did it choose you?

TUTI: It's kind of a long story.

SHARIF: No it isn't. It's about a two minute story. We tested.

TUTI: When we first came here, I enjoyed the winter time, but these last two years, I couldn't take it anymore. So we were thinking of moving to somewhere warmer but we didn't know where. So we thought, 'Let's test—should we still live in America?' And to our surprise it was time for us to go. I was shocked, because I really like it here. So we tested about Europe, and that was better. And of course you know I like a warm climate, so we tested about Spain and Portugal, and so on, and all that was no. Finally we got around to testing about England, and that felt really good. So I guess I have to follow what I received. And I think it was the same for Sharif.

SHARIF: Yes. I don't really know why—we'll find out when we get there.

TUTI: We'll find out why and for how long.

JILLIAN: So your moving there had nothing to do with the foundation you're setting up?

SHARIF: Maybe it does.

JILLIAN: What is the foundation set up to do? You said to promote unity within the world, within humanity.

TUTI: We'd like to go even further and include everything. It's not enough for humanity to feel united—we have to feel the unity of everything God created.

JILLIAN: How would you do it?

SHARIF: We don't really know yet. I guess during the time we spent around Bapak a bit of what he kept telling us must have lodged somewhere inside of us. For thirty years he gave talks to show everybody what has to be done if Subud is to have an impact on the way people live in the world. So far this is largely unfulfilled, and Subud is still hidden and inaccessible. During most of this time I've just been waiting for somebody else to do all of the things that Bapak was saying and then I would sort of join in. But gradually I started to feel more and more uncomfortable about not doing more about it myself. Perhaps the foundation is our reaction to this feeling of discomfort.

JILLIAN: How did the foundation start?

SHARIF: A couple of months before Bapak died he gave a talk in his house to a few visitors, in which he told Simon Guerrand-Hermes and myself that one day we would have to talk about Subud to the United Nations. After Bapak passed away Simon reminded me about this. I think we both felt that what Bapak had meant was that we would have some role in making Subud more accessible to people who could use it. But I had no idea how. Then, a couple of years ago, I

became quite depressed and felt that I just wasn't getting anywhere at all. So I prayed to God and I said something like this, 'Please God, just show me what You want me to do. It can be anything at all. I don't mind cleaning toilets as long as it has Your blessing.' A few weeks later Simon told me about his idea of starting this foundation together. I talked to Tuti and we tested about it with some very close Subud friends, and it was clearly the right thing to do.

JILLIAN: Is it the kind of foundation that would give funding to organizations or institutions that would meet your criteria?

TUTI: Yes, but if the right organization doesn't exist yet we may start it. We want to support people who are doing something that shows the action of the latihan in the world. For instance we are buying a plot of land near Colegio Amor in the slums of Bogota so that we can give them room to expand and also to help Monica Ramirez to put her drug prevention program on a stronger footing. She has created a project that allows an island of latihan to exist in this difficult environment. Another example—there is so much ethnic and religious conflict in the world, but when we do our latihan we know that there is no difference between people of different nations or religions. So how can we convey this reality outside the Subud life? Perhaps through workshops or camps for youth from different ethnic groups to teach this to young people who will become leaders in their communities. Usually parents are already set in their ways, but children can influence their parents.

JILLIAN: I know you don't have any definite ideas yet, but obviously you're not going to use the latihan to achieve this because the people won't be in Subud. Maybe they'll come in later—who knows? So you'll need skilled people to be the facilitators. Would the facilitators be Subud people?

SHARIF: Yes, they would have to be. There are people in Subud with such skills. But we also have to work with groups outside Subud that have the same aims as we do, learn from them, and hope that our point of view rubs off on them to some extent.

TUTI: An example might be drug rehabilitation.

SHARIF: There seems to be evidence that the success rate of drug rehabilitation programs based on some religious discipline can be much greater than those using just the orthodox medical approach. There is such a place based on the Islamic faith in Tasikmalaya in Indonesia. Young people are subject to very strict discipline. They live together, wake up very early in the morning, have a cold wash, and do their prayers and so on. Their success rate seems to be extraordinary and this center is being cloned all over Indonesia for the treatment of drug addiction.

Wagner isn't as bad as it sounds.

—Rumpold of the Bailey

Conversation—continued from page 7

JILLIAN: Well, I don't think you can do it any other way because people who take drugs are taking them because they feel spiritually dead.

What about environmental programs? Or would you focus mainly on people to begin with? I ask that because you said it was wider than humanity—it included everything.

SHARIF: Of course the environment's very important. But one of the barriers to real progress in understanding and managing environmental problems is the lack of a forum where objective discussion is possible. It's almost analogous to racial and ethnic prejudice and hatred—the prejudice and hatred between environmental activists and 'big business'.

JILLIAN: It's profoundly political.

SHARIF: Profoundly. We have this model that says that if two groups who believe diametrically opposite things hurl abuse at one another then some great wisdom will emerge in the end. I happen to believe that whatever conclusions are reached by this technique will probably be wrong. So here again, if we could create a small place where dialogue can happen in an atmosphere of harmony rather than confrontation, we would be more likely to find truth.

JILLIAN: Would you foresee working with established organizations that are already doing something along those lines?

SHARIF: Yes, it's the only way.

STUART: How would you describe the difference between the work of the foundation and the work of the global forums that have brought together different religions, political, environmental, and scientific organizations.

SHARIF: I prefer to see our foundation as a tiny part of a larger process that's going on world wide. The world seems to be going through huge changes, very fast. God's power is working in many different ways and through many different people and institutions. If God gives us His grace we may be able to play our part. The critical thing is what I said earlier—finding an approach to communal decision making that can cope with the complexity of today's world, one that works in a human space—as opposed to material, vegetable or animal—and therefore makes it possible to perceive reality. Bapak tried to teach us something about this. It's an area where we have to learn by doing.

STUART: This reminds me of Mario Molina's story of the first international agreement to restrict CFC production. The signing of the agreement came about not through opposing sides arguing their case, but through a process of cooperative information exchange between science and industry. The agree-

ment stopped the further manufacture of CFCs five years earlier than a previously "negotiated" government timetable. No one tried to win.

There's a need for much greater decentralized decision-making. We need to develop better ways of making different kinds of decisions at different levels. I often think there will be some catastrophe before we learn to do this because humankind most often doesn't learn without pain.

It's true that in Subud we have a wealth of experience through our structure—the helper/committee relationship and at our meetings and congresses. When we discuss an issue, rarely does someone try to win an argument. We throw our ideas out on the table and when a suggestion sticks, no one objects, and it's agreed. We don't even have to take a vote.

SHARIF: When the thing is right, everybody knows.

JILLIAN: This is so inspiring because as we're sitting here I have this feeling that if we could just develop this sense of connection between people, anything would be possible. △

Friend, hope for the Guest while you are alive.
Jump into experience while you are alive!
Think...and think...while you are alive.
What you call "salvation" belongs to the time
before death.

If you don't break your ropes while you're alive,
do you think
ghosts will do it after?

The idea that the soul will join with the ecstatic
just because the body is rotten —
that is all fantasy.

What is found now is found then.
If you find nothing now,
you will simply end up with an apartment in the
City of Death

So plunge into the truth, find out who the Teacher
is, Believe in the Great Sound!

—Kabir

(English version by Robert Bly)

Teachers Needed!

Give One Congress Morning to Subud Kids!

Melinda Pleshe

During the Congress five mornings of the program will be classes or activities for the elementary age (6–10) and junior-high age kids (11–14). There will be six classes run at 9:30 A. M. and then repeated at 11:00 A. M., so each teacher is asked to do their class twice in that same morning.

The children will have had an opportunity earlier to pick their activities. These classes can only happen with the volunteer participation of our adult Subud members!

Classes about what? Art, sports, juggling, carpentry, sewing, embroidery, jewelry making, performing arts. We want “hands-on” activities, no lectures please. Talk to us about materials costs.

We are having an “International Fair” one morning, which will take place out in the park, with “stations”. The kids can move freely from one activity to another, like an art fair. We need international dances and music, international hands-on arts that the kids can watch and then participate in. Demonstrations are also very welcome.

There is also a Native American Indian Day (one morning). The local Indian Council is joining us for this, bringing a teepee, doing dancing, Indian fry bread, and drumming. It will also be set up like a fair with people moving freely from one activity to another. I have already planned sand painting, soapstone carving, dream catchers, jewelry making. We need assistance. **BASKET MAKERS! BEAD WORKERS! LEATHER WORKERS!** All are needed!

Intensives for High Schoolers: Youth ages 15-18 will have the opportunity to choose an intensive. Intensives are six three-hour classes on one area of focus. Already planned are Improvisation, Archery, Wrestling, various arts, a rock n roll group, Photography, Video. Halimah Butte is organizing these. (E-mail: butteh@cgs.edu Phone: 909-624-2185). Don't delay if you're interested, because these are being set up early so we can give the teens the chance to sign up for these well before the congress starts.

You do NOT need to be a professional! You need to be able to do what you do well, and be able to share it! We can help you organize yourself. We need about twenty activities.

Please contact me to get more info, to get application forms, to get encouragement...

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Chairperson's Corner—continued from page 1

doing?” I echoed this at the women's meeting, and it helped frame the direction that the afternoon's discussions took. I have since heard the corollary to this proverbial question: “Don't just do something, sit there!” Jon Kabat-Zinn suggests in his book, *Wherever You Go There You Are*, that we take a moment several times a day to be quiet and notice where we are—even for a minute to pause, breathe, and sit with the present situation we are in.

To me this translates into doing a minute of latihan at various times throughout the day. What a gift it is that we can just “plug in” and recharge at any moment and any place. This is actually how I was able to write this column today. The first paragraph was written pre-latihan (and since scrapped because it was so awful), and the rest came flowing out afterwards. It was really quite a remarkable experience.

Anyway, back to the women's meeting. The following thoughts were inspired by Marcella, Andrea, and others at the meeting. Stated simply, our latihan is our worship—our “being”. When our work is in accordance with our being, it is our worship as well. Now it is truly fortunate to be able to work in accordance with our being and to make a suitable living at the same time. Few of us have had this opportunity to both know ourselves well enough and to be open to occupational situations at the right time to be able to realize completely worshipful work. In the potential for this is another advantage of a more highly evolved society.

Work can be worshipful even if it's not the perfect extension of our inner being that we would like it to be. It's what we bring to our work and how we go about our job that is important, as well as what it is we actually do.

I would like to close now by saying how wonderful it was to have this gathering at my new place. The warmth and energy of our time together is lingering long afterwards and the apartment now feels like home to me. Since the meeting my neighbor may think I'm a bit strange. If he asks, I thought I'd say we were rehearsing an extemporaneous performance piece. I mentioned this to Michal who laughed and said he would probably think we need a lot more practice! Δ

I have regrets but there aren't very many of them and, fortunately, I don't remember what they are.

—William Maxwell

Editorial—continued from page 1

who are migrating all over the globe at this time. Perhaps it is the French who are the most vocal objectors to the "coca-colonization" of the world that has been going on since World War II, but others feel it strongly as well.

One of the unique things about Subud is that it exists as a global network of people rather than as a church or community centered in any specific locality. Because of this and perhaps also because Bapak encouraged us through testing to be open and sensitive to the difference that culture makes, we have been able to bridge language and cultural barriers that have arisen. It is to our credit that a large number of our members speak more than one language but it must also be observed that a far greater percentage of non-native English speakers speak at least one other language than the percentage of native English speakers. It is easy for us to be lazy about this. We don't speak other tongues, frankly, because we can get away with it. Those who are interested in this issue will find Hanafi Houbert's article on English on the

internet on page 2 of this month's newsletter interesting.

Stuart and Marcella Cooke, who have taken on the task of publishing the newspaper for the World Congress, have run into this problem recently. English is considered the "official" language of Subud and of course the Newspaper will be published in English; but there are many people who will be at the congress who do not speak English and still others who speak it only with difficulty. At first it was thought that it would be enough to translate high points from the paper into Spanish, but it is becoming apparent that people who speak in other languages would like some daily information in their own tongues. The World Congress communications team along with Bachrun Bustillo of Colombia are now scrambling to figure out how to get at least a skeleton newspaper published in a number of different languages. One idea is to use translating software for the computer to make rough drafts into other languages which can then be quickly edited. Equally exciting is the hope that speakers of other languages may have their voices heard. △

Birthdays

March 12	Stuart Cooke, David Myers, Laura White, Sidora Ziegler
March 14	Lisa Shaw
March 18	Everett Parmenter
March 28	Jules Selzer
March 30	Lillian
April 1	Tuti Horthy
April 29	Nanji Davison

Dates to Remember

- April 12** Subud New York celebration of their new palace. Dancing, High tranzing, Speaking in Tongues! Not to be missed!
- May 2** Wayang Kulit at Wesleyan, \$5. Contact Kenneth before 15 April.
- May 18** membership meeting

The Subud Boston Newsletter

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