



# The Subud Boston *newsletter*

Newsletter of Subud Boston Inc.

November/December 1997 Volume 5 • Number 11-12

## Editorial

**W**e are feeling rather cocky these days. A series of occurrences have been working out well and we want to boast a little. What happened was that The Subud Boston Newsletter asked Hillel Natanson to report back from the World Congress in Spokane about what was happening with Susila Dharma. Hillel came back with a terrific report—the first half of which was in our last issue and was reprinted in Subud Voice. It is concluded in this issue. Hillel and Amalia also came back with a notebook of information about *Los Semillitas de Amanecer* and we published information about that project also in our last issue. This information so inspired Kenneth Henderson that he started fundraising in earnest for Semillitas with the result that we now have over \$1000 to send to that project via Susila Dharma.

All this set us thinking about what an amazing role a Newsletter can play; with effects, to paraphrase Gary Sneider, opening inward and outward. These are not so much the effects the writer may have on the reader, as the transformative effect on the writer that occurs when he or she investigates a story. So we feel inspired to throw down, first, a general challenge: If you are interested in a project, write about it; that, in itself, can be the catalyst others have needed in order to take action—and, second, a direct challenge to Sharif Horthy.

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## *Lute-Book Lullaby*

*W. Ballet*

*Sweet was the song the Virgin Sang  
When she to Bethlem Judah came  
And was delivered of a Son  
That blessed Jesus hath to name:*

*Lula, lula, lula-lulaby  
Lulah, lulah, lula-lulaby  
Sweet Babe, sang she  
My son and eke a Saviour born,*

*Who hath vouchsafed from on high  
To visit us that were forlorn:  
La-lula, la-lula  
la-lulaby.  
Sweet babe, sang she,  
And rocked him sweetly on her knee.*

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## REPORT FROM WORLD CONGRESS:

### Susila Dharma PART II

by Hillel Natanson

**A**t the presentation in Spokane of Susila Dharma's activities at Amanecer, the International Subud Center in the heart of Colombia, the major subject was the new career orientation program introduced this year for teenagers. After two years of design and implementation, and with the help of twenty professionals from various walks of life, this program has been successfully introduced on-site at Amanecer. So far, they have done three workshops. The first, a pilot, went well. The second was part pilot and part "real", and the third was a full-fledged program which not only surpassed expectations, but turned out to be self-funding.

The program was developed to explore the inner talents of youth. There is no lack of information in Colombia for young people to help them find their way professionally, but there are few if any tools to help them experience and clarify their inner feelings. This three-day program gives youth a chance to experience many aspects of work. After extensive exercises to develop group trust and sensitivity, students are divided into appropriately sized groups. They then participate in practical workshops with profes-

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**Editor in Chief**

Cassidy Sterling  
181 Holden Wood Rd.  
Concord, Ma 01742  
khasidi@aol.com

**Publisher & Copy Editor**

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

**Associate Editor**

Jillian Hensley  
6 Folly Lane.  
Westborough, Ma 01581  
Jilhens1@aol.com

**Fashion editor**

Michal Brownell  
Fashion Editor &  
Photographer  
17 Brewster St.  
Cambridge, Ma 02138  
BGBrownell@aol.com

**Foreign Correspondents**

Sharif & Tuti Horthy  
E-mail:  
71644.1361@compuserve.com

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The Subud Boston Newsletter  
45 Estabrook Road  
Concord, MA 01742  
Ph/Fax: 978-369-3315  
(Call before faxing. Please don't fax in the middle of the night.)  
E-mail: khasidi@aol.com

## Annual Quarterly Meeting

### Dorothea Gillim

A beautiful late summer Sunday provided a fitting backdrop to our back-to-school membership meeting on September 14th. Michal and Bart Brownell graciously opened their home to about 30 members. In attendance were some of our Quabbin neighbors, Hillel Natanson and Henrietta Robinson, as well as Rashad and Mardijah Tarantino of Rhode Island and Steve Gorman of New Hampshire.

The day began with a delightful latihan, followed by languid schmoozing over lunch. Those in attendance voted it the best Boston pot luck in memory—thanks for all your yummy contributions!

Our esteemed chairperson Lorena Kreda started off the business portion of the meeting by setting a date for the Christmas party. This year it will be held Saturday, December 6th, early afternoonish on, at the Hensley's in Westborough. Mark your calendars! [editor's note: Jillian really needs us to RSVP! Please call her or let her know if you plan to come—or if you don't!]

As secretary, I reported next, passing out the new membership directories. More copies are available on our bulletin board. I mentioned that Subud books, brought back from the Congress, are now for sale. Please contact me for all of your book-buying needs. Finally, I announced the formation of a new subcommittee on short-term housing and invited all to attend our first meeting on September 28th.

Our amusing and entertaining vice-chairperson Viviana Mason declared the reinstatement of dessert night, held after the first Sunday latihan of the each month. Somewhere in between debating the pros and cons of home-made versus store-bought foods, members voted to change the time of the Sunday latihan to 7:00.

Our ever-prudent treasurer Kenneth Henderson took the floor next. Members asked that the Committee present a budget for the next calendar year which would allot for charitable contributions.

Members also requested that the Committee provide more direct goals and incentives for people to contribute money. (We're working on it.)

Our helper with the helping hand Samuel Mattimore turned the discussion toward community service projects. The membership agreed that while last year's volunteer effort for City Year was rewarding, we need to put our energies toward raising money for Subud Boston. Someone brought up the possibility of sponsoring a child through Little Seeds of Amancer, a SICA project in Columbia. Again, while this was deemed a worthy charitable endeavor, members decided to hold off making any group contribution before assessing the viability of such a donation given our current goals and resources.

Our youthful representative Patrice Brodeur spoke about Subud Youth developments at the World Congress. A new newsletter, Komenca, written by SYA members, is available (contact Alicia Brownell). Finally, small mention was paid to Susila Dharma, the enterprise wing of Subud, and the regional meeting to be held October 5th, led by Mayor Kirkpatrick.

Thus ending the business portion of the meeting, the discussion was opened to sharing experiences from the World Congress. People's stories and opinions were too abundant and varied to summarize here. It was clear, however, that many people returned with a renewed understanding of how the latihan works in their lives, and how its impact could reach further to enhance Subud Boston and beyond.

All in all it was a full and satisfying day. Thanks to all who attended.

*EDITORIAL, continued from page 1*

### Dear Sharif

Subud Voice reports that after lunch in Spokane you set out some aims for the future. Here is the list Subud Voice reported that you proposed:

1. All 1,000 of Bapak's talks re-translated and published in five languages by year 2017.
2. One million Subud members by year 2017
3. 500 Subud houses owned by the Muhammad Subuh Foundation by year 2001
4. One hundred million dollars of income earning assets in Muhammad Subuh Foundation by year 2001, one billion (English or American billions?) by year 2011.
5. S. Widjojo—Two high rise buildings by year 2001, leading to ten million dollars annual cash surplus by year 2009.
6. Subud workers paid normal salaries by year 2001.
7. The rich helping the poor in Subud—Network of Subud Almoners in each country—no worthy request for help turned away by year 2012.
8. One "Life Center" per zone by year 2012. One per country by year 2047.
9. Annual World Subud Council meetings expanded to include an international gathering, starting year 1998.
10. International microcredit fund in SDIA, starting year 1998
11. Training center for microcredit facilitators at Amanecer starting year 1998.

Well, here is the thing, you have some outstanding debts here at The Subud Boston Newsletter and we'd like to call them in. assuming this list is more than simply a lapse due to overeating, how about this for a repayment schedule? You write several articles expanding on your thinking in these areas. Explain the need for high rise buildings, for Subud houses, for microcredit; and, further, write about how one million Subud members can work together in groups small and large to achieve these goals.

Obviously a series of articles like this should, by all rights, be published in an international Subud publication not the dinky Subud Boston Newsletterette, but we are ambitious; and besides, we have noticed that whenever we have come up with anything good, like clockwork, it shows up the next month in the Subud Voice and Subud USA Life, ergo, writing for us is the same thing as sending it to one of them. So, hey! You get your goals explained and publicized, Marwani and Ilaine get important copy for their publications, and we get a scoop! How about that Mr. Foreign Correspondent?

Next month we tackle the Fashion Editor who hasn't been earning her spot on the masthead either.

Con muchisimo amor

Your friends and erstwhile cohorts at the Subud Boston Newsletter

*P.S. Tell Tuti that, for her part, she can put on a LOT of lipstick, blot her lips on a napkin and send it to us. We'll scan it in for the Idul Fitri special edition.*

## *Adam Lay Ybounden*

*Adam lay y-bounden,  
Bounden in a bond,  
Four thousand winter  
Thought he not too long*

*And all was for an apple,  
An apple that he took,  
E'en as clerkes finden  
Written in their book.*

*Ne had the apple taken been,  
The apple taken been,  
Ne had never our Lady  
A been heavené Queen.*

*Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was,  
Therefore we moun singen,  
Deo gracias! Deo gracias!*

## *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
All seated on the ground,  
The Angel of the Lord came down  
And glory shone around.  
'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind*

*Thus spake the seraph: and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:  
'All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace;  
Good-will hence forth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'*

*SUSILA DHARMA, continued from page 1*

sionals who love their work, and are given opportunities to play out the roles of various professions and to see what each actually feels like.

Professions are divided into four broad categories — health, the hard sciences, the humanities (psychology and the arts), and business. As youth experiment with and experience various aspects of these areas of endeavor, they are encouraged to reflect by keeping a journal. They are shown how to continually go back “inside” to check their feelings, and shown by example how to incorporate humor in their explorations. In order to break old patterns of thought, they are awakened at 5 a.m. to watch the dawn. Along with this and other changes of routine, they are encouraged to talk and think about values, and to “clean” their feelings by being aware of each of their senses. In other words, although the students are certainly not opened in the Subud latihan, elements of that experience are brought into play.

Marzuki Andujar, who presented the program, made note of two examples of young people’s experience. One young lady had always thought she wanted to study business, but by the end of the program she knew it wasn’t right for her. Another young woman had always neglected enterprise, but came to the realization that it was just the arena for her.

Marzuki stressed that while the approach is in line with the latihan, it is very sound, and that many psychologists were involved in its design. He also said that it is continually being refined and improved, and invited Subud parents to consider sending their teenagers to Amanecer next summer, when an English-language program will be conducted. There is on-going discussion of running the program at future congresses. There have also been requests to develop a similar program for other age groups, and these are under consideration.

Amanecer continues to struggle, but they are surviving and growing, and the initial success of this new program is one of the fruits of this labor. I was reminded of something very important in a discussion with a Subud member from Montreal who is a sociologist and a professional in the field of development. We had both been very disappointed that there were so very few people at the presentation about Amanecer. There were the presenters themselves, several Canadians, one or two Europeans, and two Americans, including myself. It seemed strange that there was not more of a show of interest, particularly since the people of Amanecer had poured their energy, guts and love into hosting the last world congress just four years ago. The look of disappointment on some of their faces after the presentation

was unmistakable, and painful. Later, in discussion down by the Spokane River, my Canadian friend emphasized that it takes years, sometimes even decades, and perhaps even a lifetime, to successfully launch a social project. She felt great frustration that Subud members worldwide have not shown more patience and concern for the efforts of their brothers and sisters at Amanecer. But the next day, everybody was considerably happier — 60 young people showed up for a presentation of Amanecer at a Subud Youth event, and showed real interest and enthusiasm.

Although I did not attend it, there was apparently an interesting workshop on Susila Dharma and the United Nations. Some people think that we can take a much more active role and take better advantage of our UN accreditation, not only to make ourselves more visible to the world but to perhaps get more outside funding for our many projects — it becoming increasingly obvious that all of the wonderful SD projects cannot

**IT SEEMED STRANGE THAT THERE WAS NOT MORE OF A SHOW OF INTEREST, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE PEOPLE OF AMANECEER HAD Poured THEIR ENERGY, GUTS AND LOVE INTO HOSTING THE LAST WORLD CONGRESS JUST FOUR YEARS AGO.**

and should not depend entirely on donations from the handful of Subud members in this huge world. There were substantial differences of opinion on how best to be more active in this arena, and the discussion, like

many others, spilled over into dinnertime. The passion of some Subud members for Susila Dharma was ample and evident.

Although I was unable to see it, SD presented a 700-slide multi-media show at the Opera House at the beginning of one plenary session. A friend for whom Spokane was her first international Subud experience told me that it was incredible, and that she left crying tears of joy. There are so many interesting and worthwhile projects that I could write on and on — there were exactly fifty scheduled SD presentations and workshops at congress. Time and space, however, won’t allow me to continue. But from the Whakapuare project in New Zealand to raise money for children’s needs through musical concerts to the Thally Child Development project in rural India, from the Bosnia Family Aid Appeal in England to the Inka Samana education project high in the Andes of Ecuador, from the Cipanas Village for orphans in Java to the Bellingham Community Meal Program in the state of Washington, there is an amazing amount of a “good work” being done by Subud members throughout the world. And it all strikes me as the best “proof” of the content of the latihan, that contact with God which unites and moves us all. Thanks for the assignment, Cassidy. Δ

## CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

## Reflections from and on the latihan

Lorena Kreda

It has been five months and a year since I began my role as chairperson of the Boston Subud group. I've gone from being someone who went to latihan when I had time and it was convenient, to one who misses latihan only when there's a very good reason that I can't go. I came to Subud looking for experiential evidence that God existed—something to make religion real for me. Even though that evidence hasn't taken the form I thought I wanted nor come in the time frame I had expected, the inseparability of God and life has been revealed to me through the latihan. Subud as an organization has also become more apparent and real for me. Before becoming chairperson the infrastructure of Subud had very little meaning and now, especially since attending the World Congress, it not only has meaning but is something which I am extremely proud to be a part of.

To some extent this column is always inspired by receivings in the latihan. Perhaps that can serve as a redeeming factor if anything I say offends anyone. It's a convenient excuse in any case. If this were a different world, this approach might work in other situations too: "I received it was more appropriate for me to go the beach rather than work at this time." I can see a lot of potential here!

As a wise friend once said, "there's an element of truth in every joke," and this case is no exception. Through the latihan, it truly is possible to know what is best for us. The key, as Bapak and others have said, is just to do the latihan. For me the second key has been to do it without expectations and without second guesses. I used to be very self-conscious in latihan and acutely aware of other people as well. Those emotional demons come into the latihan hall right along with me—no place is sacred. And so the criticisms and judgments, the voices in my head that hinder daily life also hinder the latihan. At one time the questions and comments were endless. "Am I doing it [the latihan] right? So-and-so sings really beautifully so she must be better at this than me. Someone else is really obnoxious. Is this movement coming from God or am I making it up? What is this "vibration" thing that people speak about. I don't feel any vibration—or do I? Was that a shiver that just went up and down my spine? Does that count or am I just feeling a chill?" It got even sillier than this. At one point I thought maybe I was seeing some sort of light, but as it turned out I was just facing more toward the light in the latihan room at some

times than at others. I'm sure I had some pre-conceived notion that it would be very cool to see a light during latihan.

There are so many parallels between our experience of the latihan and our psychology that it never ceases to amaze me. It makes perfect sense, we're each just one person. If self-doubts, criticisms and judgments exist in daily life, these things exist in latihan. The truly amazing part is that if the self-doubts, criticisms, and judgments fall away in latihan they will also fall away in daily life. I am just beginning to experience this for myself and recognize this as part of the "evidence" that I was seeking five years ago when I joined Subud.

This process started one day quite some time ago with the realization that it just didn't matter what my latihan looked or sounded like. I was doing it therefore it was mine. Neither I nor anyone else could criticize it because it was what I received (again there's that excuse!) Or if I wasn't really receiving the movement, sound or whatever, but actually making it up myself that was okay, too, because sooner or later that part would quiet down on its own. I think each one of us is a vessel for our spirit and our spirit resonates within us in our own unique way at any particular time. By practicing enough, that resonance will ring truer and truer and the background noise will quiet down. Doing latihan alone has been especially helpful because there's no one around to judge or distract so it matters not at all what I do. This solo experience of the latihan carries forth into the group experience. For someone like me, who has particularly strong, multifaceted inhibitions, becoming less concerned with the latihan in this way (as ironic as that may sound) has been very beneficial.

For a moment I considered not writing this particular article. It seemed a bit too personal or maybe too much of an attempt at explaining things that shouldn't be explained. For these reasons, I hope it's not inappropriate at all. I really did receive to write most of it! I'm very grateful for the opportunity to be serving as chairperson and experiencing the profound and ongoing growth that comes along with this (or any committee) position. Hopefully the fact that I possess such a large amount of growth potential will not hamper my effectiveness as chair too much!

**D**on't forget the Christmas Party at the Hensley's on December sixth! Some people will be performing and, of course, the food will be the usual—which means Great!

Jillian REALLY NEEDS everyone to let her know whether they are coming and what they are bringing. This means YOU!

*This notice was inspired by Melinda Pleshe*

## Amanecer: a sometimes successful experiment

### Ruth Gonzalez

I wrote to Ruth Gonzalez (née Thomas) at Amanecer asking for more information about the Semillitas program. She responded with a lovely letter which we are publishing in two parts. —Cassidy

Dear Cassidy,

Thanks for your wonderful article! It hits the spot. I'm sorry about the delay in getting back to you with more information, but we have had a lot of restrictions on the phone line here and I have been running around here like a madwoman. I did send some E-mail to Hillel but not with what you asked about. Hillel reminded me that we are not very good communicators! I hope we can get better: this has been a busy and tough time. I hope all this does not come out as a barrage of requests for money, because we really don't want to go that way, and I really see how tempting it can be to ask for funds when people are supportive. So let us nip this in the bud. What we need is to share our community with you, and try to channel our various talents and energies in a common direction.

Well, I'm not very good at anecdotes, but I'll try to give some more human details. If you do send anything to Subud Life, I would like it to be about Amanecer as a whole, not about a specific program in Amanecer (like Semillitas) no matter how great the needs of any one program or project may be. The reason is that Amanecer itself is really a project, and truly a social project at that. Here is why:

Amanecer is one big experiment in community development. The chances of success are slim indeed, based on the experiences of other such communes in other parts of the world, or other Subud experiments, and nothing like it exists in Colombia. We are a few families and individuals here (about 22 households) with about 40 active adults working on much less than a shoestring in virtually every area: arts and culture, crafts, building and construction, small industry, education and health, food services, accommodations, maintenance, administration, communications, etc., etc. We have to run our services and administration for ourselves, and basically "govern" ourselves. I was reading an article about alternative communities in the US (the Farm in Tennessee or Twin Oaks in Virginia), from a course I took last year on anthropology of development, and I realized that we are really rather unique in the western world, and perhaps the Subud brotherhood need not feel ashamed of us just because we are poor. Many alternatives start out like us. But, there is a special richness here that I would like to share a little bit of, with no intention to ask for funds. Brother, I sincerely hope that we don't need to ask for donations, and that if we learn better how to share what we real-

ly are, people will know and feel for themselves how best to become a participant in the experiment.

### PEOPLE AT AMANECECER: the rich and the poor

Who lives here? And why? Let us look at the extremes. Some very poor people live here. But we do have a couple of well-to-do's. And no one is living in absolute misery!

At the far end of Amanecer, right near the big Trans American Highway, we have a family living who arrived here in 1993, a few weeks before the World Congress. They are from the lowest strata of Colombian society: street people or vagabonds. They had lost the canteen that had been their livelihood and, since they were Subud members, they drifted to Amanecer. They came with ragged cloths, bad health, lots of scruffy children, a few bags of worthless stuff, and hopes for a better life. At first they squeezed into the famous *cambuches*,<sup>1</sup> or *guadua* shacks normally used for storage. (Others were also shacking up there!) Their name is Alzate, and now they live in a real house that they built themselves. It is primitive by North American standards, but it's functional. Every time an odd job came up, there they were: washing clothes or floors or cutting grass, looking after kids, etc. Every \$5 or \$10 dollars went to food first, but some went for bricks or cement or bamboo—and people here helped out.

They grew food on whatever unused patch of land was around their shack. When Hassan Bustillo left, he felt sufficient confidence in their eldest son Lucio, to hand him over a small opportunity: the little cafeteria kiosk beside the restaurant in the center of Amanecer. Somehow, with this small income, the other girls (Sofia, Adelina, Victoria and Alicia) have been able to go to school, and are still studying: the eldest, Sofia, may soon graduate from high school. This is a tremendous accomplishment considering that she suffers from kidney problems and works during the day, studying at night. Right now their mother, Bernardina, is energetically cleaning the salons and public spaces around Amanecer, and their father, Raimundo who also suffers poor health, is doing night watchman duty. We are proud of them, and they are proud as well. They have plans to open a kiosk at the entrance to Amanecer to sell *arepas* and *empanadas* one day.<sup>2</sup>

1 Guadua is the large bamboo that is used for construction in Colombia. It formed a major element in the latihan halls and houses that have been built at Amanecer.

## SEMILLITAS UPDATE

## Good News!

## Kenneth Henderson

As of November 11, one thousand and fifty-five dollars has been raised in support of the *Semillitas de Amanecer* program (Little seeds of Amanecer). This means that Subud Boston will be able to sponsor a child's tuition for a year at the Amanecer I.C.D.P. program as well as contribute over \$1000 for the purchase of a new vehicle to transport children back and forth to school.

We will be continuing to raise money until November 15th at which time the funds will be transferred to Susilla Dharma who will then forward them to Amanecer. The portion of the funds for the sponsorship of the child will be forwarded from us directly to *Semillitas de Amanecer*.

A special thanks to all those who have made this drive successful and a reminder to those that would like to give, there's still time to contribute. Make your check payable to "Subud Boston" and forward to Subud Boston, 45 Estabrook Rd., Concord, MA 01742, or leave your gift with Kenneth at Latihan.

AMANECER— continued from page 6

At the other extreme, we have one of our well-to-dos (far from being truly wealthy) Benedict Collison. He is an elderly retired meteorologist whose pension goes farther here than it would in England. He built a nice big house with a solar water heater on the roof with his savings. He helps out money-wise with anything to do with children: he supports the education of two children in the Semillitas program as a Padrino, and has helped with trips, food, volunteers, recreation, and toys for many many children. He doesn't have a job here per se, and that seems right. He is something of a kid himself I think, a generous and kindly grandfather figure around Amanecer.

Between these extremes is what I would call the middle-working class. I'll choose typical families, to show that the workload and sacrifice involved in living in Amanecer for ordinary people is considerable.

Let me introduce the family of Anisah and Burhan. They have six children—the youngest is one year old, and the eldest is a feisty sixteen year old. Burhan is a sociologist and works in Bogota. He sees his wife and kids on the weekend after an 8 hour drive each way! Anisah is the manager of the Hostería Amanecer (guest

house) and, as part of the administrative team here, she is the manager of all the commercial events. Anisah is also a member of the Board of Directors of Amanecer and is on the local school board. She is an active helper and part of the SES group! They have been through times of hunger when Burhan had to look for work, and have overcome difficulties in paying for the education of all the kids.

Now, the family of Emilia and David, who have two young children, 4 and 2 years old. David has to travel even farther to his work as a geologist in rural Caldas. He has a day or so with his beloved family every week. Emilia studies occupational therapy at the university in Quindio. She has a congenital illness and walks permanently with crutches. She volunteers as general treasurer and accountant to the Fundacion Amanecer which is an enormous job including the Hostería and Events! She is also a helper, and always gives generously to communal collections or meals.

Or the family of Alfiah and Marzuki Bernal, with a young daughter and an elderly mother. Marzuki has an intensive small metal works enterprise here which he is trying to get off the ground with a team of 3 young people. He is part of the administration as representative of the enterprises, and is secretary of the SES group. He's an active helper as well. Alfiah is the grade one teacher in the Semillitas program, and is also in charge of the reception for commercial events, as well as preparing for all and any Subud gatherings which are plenty!

So you see what I mean, the few people who live here are kind of crazy with work because every able body has to be involved in everything, a bit like a kibbutz gone haywire! Where we are going and what we are trying to do is hard to pin down, but it revolves around making a Subud community work, where decisions here are taken ultimately on the basis of the latihan. We do fight a lot as I'm sure you have heard on the grape vine, but we also laugh a lot and we love each other a lot when we calm down: it is impossible to ignore each other at any rate. I'll write you more about this next time. I have a few hats as well, so if you don't hear from me as often as you should, you can imagine me several months pregnant, with my cardboard briefcase, in a meeting at the nearby primary school, Elias in tow! We are trying to start a learn-work program with the eldest primary school kids (12 to 17 years old), to give a boost to our under populated floundering micro-enterprises and crafts production here.

I'll write soon Cassidy, I'm still not sure what I'm trying to tell you but this is just something I want to share. One day I wish someone like you would come and do interviews and really write about this place as it should be done.

Love, Ruth.

△

2 Arepas are a kind of thick corn tortilla. Empanadas are a fried dumpling sort of like "Peking Ravioli" in Chinese restaurants.

## Dates to Remember

NO DESSERT NIGHTS UNTIL FEBRUARY

### December

- 3 Helper/committee 7:30
- 16 Helper/committee 4:30

### January

- 1 Helper/Committee 7:30
- 6 Christmas Party 3 until whenever at Hensleys—Please RSVP!
- 14 Helper/committee 4:30

RAMADAN BEGINS ON DECEMBER 31 (WE THINK). HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Birthdays

### NOVEMBER

- 2 Mayer Kirkpatrick
- 5 Hillel Natanson
- 14 Mardijah Tarantino
- 19 Lalia Helmer
- 26 Walt Thornton

### DECEMBER

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

### JANUARY

- 3 Alifah Kirkpatrick
- 17 Sharif Horthy
- 20 Mitchell Ziegler

## Newsflash

The Christmas party will be at the Hensleys on December 6.

We in Subud are notorious for just showing up unexpectedly and at the last minute for things—parties, latihans, congresses. “Oh, I *received* to come at the last minute and, amazingly, I got a free airplane ticket, a client cancelled, a ride was available... Miraculous as all these events no doubt are, Jillian asks everybody to PLEASE let her know if they are coming since she has to prepare her house and make sure there is enough food. It is probably also a miracle that she can cope with these parties at all, and maybe it would be polite not to ask her to rely quite so heavily on Providence as she has had to in the past.

### Ramadan Starts on December 31

Ramadan begins on December thirty-first to the best of our calculations. We will be publishing the usual Ramadan fasting guidelines sometime in late December and will distribute them to those who wish to have them. (By that time we should be more sure of the dates.)

We wish all of you a happy Hanukkah, a merry Christmas, and a joyous Ramadan.

—Cassidy and Kenneth

P.S. Don't forget to let Jillian Hensley know whether or not you will be at the Christmas party!

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## The Subud Boston Newsletter

45 Estabrook Road  
Concord, MA 01742

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