



The Subud Boston newsletter

Newsletter of Subud Boston Inc.

Patience, Sincerity, Submission and Courage

May 2003 Volume 8 / No 2

Chairma'amly Comments

By Jillian Hensley

Well, folks, from where I sit it seems that we're getting stronger every day, and strength brings with it possibilities for growth. Through the *Interludes* (some exciting ones coming up!), the group forums moderated by Samuel and Kenton, the *Birthday/Let's Talk* evenings, and the after-latihan get-togethers in the small classroom, we're getting to know each other better. This means that we can more clearly see how our talents and skills can be used to benefit Subud in general, our group in particular, and the wider community in the future. The housing fund is growing at an encouraging rate (group funds need some perking up — I hope you've all responded to Milton's request for pledges!), and it appears that there is a fair chance we may get back at least some of the investment we

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NEW ENGLANDERS GATHER

On one of the few sunny days in this soggy spring, the 8th annual New England Gathering, hosted by Subud Boston, welcomed almost 40 sisters and brothers from around the region to the Congregational Church in Westborough. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and even New York (yes, we know that's not New England!) were represented. Opportunities to see dear friends in neighboring states don't happen too often, and the Gathering allows members within a few hours' drive of Westborough to get together once a year.

It was a treat to have Margaret Aldis (regional helper) and Rohana Laing and Damanhuri Alkaitis (international helpers) in our midst, as well as Rohana Alkaitis, who received many warm hugs from old friends. We thank them all for somehow fitting Boston into their demanding schedules, and for being present not only at the Gathering, but also at a group get-together on Friday and a meeting with helpers and committee on Sunday.

In Westborough, the morning latihan was followed by testing, and the usual eye-inspiring, stomach-stretching lunch, which, this year, was bracketed by two presentations on the Subud Credit Union (Rosetta Narvaez) and the Muhammad Subuh Foundation (Dorothea Gillim). Our thanks to both presenters—we all appreciated hearing about these initiatives, which promise to strengthen Subud's material strength in the world.

After a second latihan, our visiting and local helpers offered opportunities to experience strong group testing, and satisfied requests for personal testing. We thank you all for so willingly giving of yourselves.

Rounding off a fulfilling and rewarding day, a small group of stalwarts made their way to the Hensleys' for supper, and an invigorating game of Ping-Pong—a fitting material conclusion to a spiritual day!

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Quote of Note:

And that is why in religion we are taught that the rich should help the poor, that the intelligent should help the stupid, that the strong should help the weak. And if they do not do this, then we get the situation that we have in the world today, that the poor want to strike at the rich and the weak want to strike at the strong.

Bapak, Toronto May 17, 1976

News from Kalimantan

Teacher Needed

Downloaded From <subudusa@subudusa.org>

The Subud Boston
Newsletter

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Since January 2003, the children living at Rungan Sari have come together to form what is the beginnings of Sekolah Bina Cita Utama or “the nurturing of good (or the best) ideals” a name given by Ibu Rahayu for our school.

The 9 children form a challenging mix of ages, 8 through 14 years, derived from different nationalities and cultures: Indonesian, Colombian, Australians and Thai.

Initially Chad and Margaret, teachers from Australia volunteered to take on the challenge of getting our little school, located in the latihan hall, up and running. Margaret and Chad have now returned to Australia, and Utami Geiger with other parent's support has taken over the tutor's role.

Presently we are using an excellent curriculum provided by the School of Isolated and Distance Education from West Australia, and are adapting it to our diverse needs. However the goal is that within one year we will create our own curriculum and have the means to also incorporate local children from both Palangkaraya and neighboring villages.

Those of us living here feel that the development of a school is both fundamental and critical to Subud's ability to play a positive role in the development of the area. This view is also shared by the local people, including the mayor of Palangkaraya.

This is a tremendous challenge and something we will not achieve without drawing on the resources, experience, support, collaboration and the participation of like-minded people and the brotherhood. A clear and shared vision, plus finding the right people, lies at the core of this development. We would like to start networking with people who are interested in this exciting project.

Utami and Mansur Geiger are founders of Sekolah Cita Buana in Wisma Subud that grew from 9 to 300 children in a period of 4 years, and they are acutely aware of the dynamics and challenges involved in developing a school of this type. While our finances are limited and derived solely from the parent group at this time, we are in a position and need to find an experienced Subud teacher, on an all-cost basis to help in the immediate future. Hopefully Salamah Dick will also be joining us in August to start work on the curriculum development. There is one thing that all parents would agree about our unique school environment, that is, it brings out in an almost uncontainable manner the true natures and talents of our children. This is obviously at the heart of what we hope for. Now we need to find the appropriate methods, techniques and people to allow this to develop in a broad and meaningful way.

If you feel you'd like to become involved, whether that be financially by sponsoring a child, a teacher, materials, funding to establish our legal body, or equally by providing knowledge and experience in education, we'd love to hear from you by email at:

geiger@palangkaraya.wasantara.net.id.

We're at the beginning of something special.
The Parents of the children of Bina Cita Utama
at Rungan Sari, Kalimantan.

Subud Salutes Shakespeare at the Second Interlude

Ron Morin

On February 23, at the home of Susan Holbert and Pierce Butler, Subudeans inaugurated the second *Interlude** fundraiser for the housing program, their reading of Shakespeare. *Macbeth* was chosen – it is the second shortest play the Bard ever wrote – and over twenty people participated.

The festivities began when Ron was asked to introduce the play. He mentioned that Shakespeare had written *Macbeth* to honor James I, who was present at the first production and whose succession descended from the mythical figure, Banquo. Ron also pointed out that, as Shakespeare had prophesized in *Macbeth*, James I's succession would go on unbroken "to the crack of time", which is what has transpired: Queen Elizabeth II is a twelfth generation descendant of James I.

Peter Hensley, as Duncan, was Peter as he graciously passed out titles and honors to his brave and noble generals for defeating Macdonwald and the Thane of Cawdor. Then Viviana Mason, Susan (a friend of Viviana's), and Beth Brown appeared on the heath as three witches and really got things going. Rosetta Narvaez, as Macbeth, started to fantasize, and before you knew it, Jillian Hensley, as Lady Macbeth, was "unsexing" herself. Well, it only got better after that. When Kenton became Macbeth, he was roaring with treachery. What a family!

Emmanuel, Hayden, Philip, Samuel, Sandy and Suzanne Renna, Simon, Sue, Pierce, Ron – we were good too, but I have to tell you, the Best Reader Award goes to Steven Mason. He was terrific.

Space, unfortunately, prevents me from expanding more at the moment. There is, however, a rumor of another reading; please come and see for yourself. Oh, the food was wonderful with a communal salad, hot soups (potato and spinach), great cheeses and breads, desserts and fine wines. Then we went to latihan, a nice progression, from Shakespeare to sacred prayer.

*Proceeds from this *Interlude* netted the Housing fund \$127, which when combined with the matching grant from EMSEAL, equaled \$254 thus totaling \$1000 from EMSEAL for the fiscal year ending this June. Thanks to EMSEAL and to all who contributed.

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made in Premier Hotels, which will boost that fund still further. It's also good to note that since the last issue of this newsletter our numbers have been augmented by four new members. Add to all this our own personal growth through the latihan, and we have a pretty good recipe for success!

You'll see from the calendar that the next in the *Interlude* series is Emmanuel's famous Pond Party, which has become something of a tradition for the group. (In case you're wondering what happened to the *Interlude* that should have occurred in May, the New England Gathering took its place.) We don't have definite dates yet for all the future *Interludes*, but here's a glimpse of some possibilities:

On September 6, a talk on the current state of Islam in America and the world will be given by Gisela Webb, a long-time Subud member who is an associate professor of Comparative Religions at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ (details to be announced); Down the road, Dorothea will introduce us to her cartoon character, **Monie**, telling us how she came into being, and satisfy our curiosity about what goes on behind the scenes of a TV production; A Holiday *Interlude* comes up in December with sociability and song, not to mention a succulent spread! And as so many people are keen to do another Shakespeare reading, we hope to enliven January with a seasonal selection from the Bard such as *A Winter's Tale* or *Twelfth Night*. The Masons have kindly offered to host this event, on condition that the addition to their house is completed by then.

The committee welcomes ideas for future *Interludes*. Remember that they are open to family and friends, and also that July 1st marks a new business year for Emseal, so every dollar we raise will be doubled!

I want to sign off with some thank yous: to the generous people who bring contributions for the Birthday/Let's Talk evenings without being asked; to those who stay to wash up and tidy away; and to all of you for so willingly cooking up a storm for potlucks and helping to make our get-togethers as enjoyable as they always are.

Heard the Buzz?

It's a knitting Bee

Another fund raising activity that is under way is a knitting bee. Several women members have already started creating trendy "eyelash" scarves using a combination of funky yarns. These scarves are all the rage, and we have a boutique lined up as a sales outlet. Our first official "bee" will take place at the church before latihan on Sunday, June 29. Anyone who is interested in getting those needles clicking, please contact Lillian or Jillian for details.

Meet Joe Gallo

First in a Series of Member Profiles

Interview by Kenton Hensley

Tripping on some invisible line some-where just south of the Charles River, the torrents of rain that stalled my journey on the Pike suddenly fell away as I wiggled my way through rush-hour traffic to the *New Towne Grill* in Porter Square. Joe Gallo was standing outside as I circled like a buzzard, in typical Cambridge fashion, looking for a scrap of parking space. We waved at each other as I went around the block. I found a spot eventually, and I can now confirm that every year in Cambridge they get smaller, SUV's notwithstanding.

Joe had recommended without hesitation that we meet at this little non-yuppie restaurant with a simple Italian-American menu – a dying breed in the onslaught of gentrification. So this is a regular haunt of his. “The food is good and there are two great guys who run it,” he said, and clearly he was comfortable here. He knew the waitress and her idiosyncrasies and later, as I finished with the check, Joe disappeared through the back doors and a light-hearted conversation about the Red Sox situation drifted across the mostly empty tables.

Joe was born in the Bronx but grew up in the suburbs of New York and remembers the freedom of bicycles, the kids jammed into the back seat and many other aspects of suburban life we suburbanites can relate to. Fourth in a family of three boys and three girls, his father was Catholic and his mother Jewish. Yet, his father was uninterested in the regularity of religious duties and it was his mother, who had converted to Catholicism before marriage, who made sure that all the kids went to church. In his teen years, Joe was into Rock ‘n Roll and a member of several “do nothing” bands, played sport (chased girls), and always tried to be funnier than the next guy. “My parents weren’t prepared to have the kind of kids they had,” and, when pressed for an explanation, he offers, “Mom wouldn’t understand Subud.”

Joe did not know his mother was Jewish until the day she found him drawing a swastika which he had seen and thought was cool. His mother, stung by the evocation of the dark symbol, told Joe of his Jewish heritage and of aunts and uncles who perished in the Nazi death camps. It spawned an interest in everything Jewish, particularly an appreciation for Jewish humor and the Marx Brothers.

Joe first wanted to be a disc jockey, then a writer, and was employed as a journalist for several years. He still writes regularly though not routinely; he dismissed the routine part as lacking the spontaneity he

prefers. For a time he worked at the Book Cellar, a used-book store in Porter Square, and wouldn’t mind running such a store himself. “I have thirteen first novels.” He drops these words without a hint of self-criticism, and when pressed for clarification he explains that none are published and they are not necessarily finished. He’s also written “lots of poetry,” song lyrics and short stories which have had more success. “My whole philosophy of work is to work as little as possible and make as much as possible.” When I respond that this doesn’t sound much different from the aspirations of most of us he replies, “Work should be constructive but in so many people’s lives it is the opposite. Sales is as close to being myself without having to change myself as I can get. Taking a serious corporate job would not be a good idea [for me]. It dawns on me that Joe is an artist and like many artists who toil to understand and reflect the human spirit, he has found the least costly compromise to that effort. You know,” he interrupts the discussion of work, somewhat surprisingly, “I’m reluctant to talk about myself – not much of a story there. I’m a journalist and I prefer interviewing other people.” I disagreed quietly about the story part though I respect the reluctance.

When Joe was 21 his father died, a moment that sparked a turning toward his serious spiritual search, and he read *The Occult* by Colin Wilson, which set him on a path that led eventually to Gurdjieff and might have led him to Subud; but, “No,” he states quietly but emphatically, “Tom [Kane] brought me to Subud

We met Joe and Tom for the first time among the seven people who attended our information session on Subud at the Theosophical Society in Arlington in January. Tom was literally ready to be opened that night if possible. Joe needed to learn a little more and perhaps the most striking thing about Joe’s inquiry into Subud was the raft of excellent questions that he asked and continues to ask. Such an inquiring disposition, when paired with the discernment of a soul opened to the Universe is an excellent combination. “How have you found Subud so far?” I asked. “The whole mystery of it is how something happens at all. The latihan doesn’t lie; it exposes you for what you think you are and shows you what you really are. I’ve seen a lot of old age stuff, new age mediums, pagan and Christian self-serving but [in Subud] there wasn’t that kind of kookiness or New Age spaciousness that are turn-offs. I’m impressed by the humor and intelligence of the people I’ve met.”

If you take the time to chat to Joe you will find that he is always reading. Later in the week, Joe shared a book he was reading written during the 14th Century in the Christian mystical tradition called *The Cloud of Un-*

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Subud East Coast Congress A Kedjiwaan Affair

By **Mardiyah Tarantino**

On Memorial Day weekend, Subud East Coast held its annual congress, this year returning to the site of a fall gathering in northeast PA.

It was my first visit to Manatawny, so while everyone knew where they were, what they were doing and where to go, I just tagged along, first with Margaret (Aldis) my fellow regional helper who had driven us through -- well, not hell, but certainly high water all the way from Dulles Airport -- and after arriving, with Sarah, my grand daughter, who knew the ropes from the last time.

It was a completely informal gathering, stitched together you might say, for us ladies with the help of Sylvia Margolin NH. so that there would be some kind of continuity in what we were doing.

My recalling is blotchy, I'm afraid, because of an experience I had shortly after arriving. (see **poem** in next column)

Despite the unending rain, the kids seemed to be having a good time in the corner with the video, and games. I remember latihan after latihan, and a great deal of group testing and personal testing, which was what everyone really wanted, and not too many 'workshops'. I did join in Dahlan Foah's "Outreach" workshop, though, which served to remind us again of what we could do, if we'd only make the effort, what we'd better not do, and what we might do, if we were adventurous enough. A worthwhile meeting.

I was particularly happy that quite a few isolated and semi-isolated members got a chance to catch up on the group scene and join in with us.

Lisa was Queen of the Kitchen along with a few - not very many! - helpers at her side. The whole meal plan was admirably organized by her, and she produced absolutely scrumptious meals, time and time again. Bless her!

We survived the rain, coming and going while there, but we were happy, despite it, to be together, and I'm sure everyone joins me in thanking our Committee for making it all happen.

What Happened to Me One Night

I'm up here
All alone
Suspended in space
There's no blue Heaven that I can see.
Grayish mist everywhere
Way below me : The earth.
Woops! There go my pills down through the ether
Goodbye daily pills that never leave my side,
Oh, oh! There go my cosmetics
I watch them float away, thinking
I'm going to look like hell, now, without lipstick.
But I've no body, no body at all!
To tell the truth, it's scary, suspended here.
Hello! My latihan! Here we are now,
We're One. That's all that's left.
Wow! Can we do it alone like this?
Yoo-hoo! Down there!
(They don't hear me.)
Busy little bugs on a tennis ball
I'm stuck!
You're supposed to pray for me, you know,
C'mon now, do the prayers, the Dzikir!
You remember how we did them together,
For the third day,
And for the seventh day... Get me going!
Ah well, they're disappearing now
Covered with mist
It's lonely up here, waiting.
Bismillah! La Illaha Ilallah.

Mardiyah Tarantino

Joe Gallo from page 4

knowing, which he discovered to be really congruent with the ideas of Subud: "In fact even the method of prayer that he [the author] talks about -- that praying to God even though the words are noble in and of themselves, is not going to get you any closer to God -- that you have to empty yourself out and that you have to 'pray' from the 'stirring of Love in your heart' as he puts it -- if that is not Subud then I'm James Cagney."

Another notable characteristic is how Joe really calls things as they are. Maybe that is part of the power of observation that is developed by his enquiring mind. In personal exchanges he will notice something in the conversation and address it to you in a very straightforward manner, and as is typical of Joe, it is often phrased as a question. In this manner he also stands solidly on his own two feet as you will find if you jest with him. He is an admirable sparring partner in banter and a delightful contributor to our conversation after latihan.

BIRTHDAYS

June

- 3 Michal Brownell
- 24 Noah Gilman

July

- 14 Tom Kane
- 18 Dorothea Gillim

August

- 1 Kenton Hensley
- 15 Ludwig von Hahn

September

- 29 Sandy Renna

DATES TO REMEMBER

June

- 8 Helper/Committee Latihan
- 15 Birthday/Dessert/Let's Talk
- 18 Men's discussion after Latihan
- 20 Bapak's Birthday Potluck

July

- 13 Birthday/Dessert/Let's Talk
- 13 Helper/Committee Latihan
- 16 Men's discussion after Latihan

August

- 3 Helper/Committee Latihan
- 3 Birthday/Dessert/Let's Talk
- 17 Emmanuel's swim party
(raindate 8/24)

September

- 6 Visit and Talk by Gisela Webb
- 7 Helper/Committee Latihan
- 7 Birthday/Dessert/Let's Talk
- 17 Men's Discussion after Latihan
- 21 Fall Membership Meeting & Potluck

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There has been a flurry of openings lately. Welcome **Joe Gallo** and **Tom Kane** who were opened February 13, followed by **Gene Castillo** on April 30 and **Noah Gilman** on April 30.....**Jackie Nolan** welcomed her first child, a son **Jacob Samuel**, 7lb,11oz born March 31also, **Stella Downie** introduced to the world the latest addition to her family, a son **Alexei** who was born April 28th at 9:07 PM.....**Helena Owens** opened her new business, Wellness Plus, an integrated health service, in Nashua this past March.....start gathering that unused stuff that's been hanging around too long, the annual **tag sale** is coming up at Suzanne's, date to be announced.....the annual **swim party** hosted by Emmanuel is scheduled August 17 (rain date 8/24) in Concord.....

Premier Hotel Update

A group of the former directors of Premier Hotels have founded a new enterprise, Hospitality Developments Ltd, a similar venture to Premier Hotels. A Beneficial Trust is being established allocating 20% of their shareholding for a fund in order to pay back to those who either loaned or purchased shares in Premier in the event of any Capital Gains or Dividend distribution. Those **not** receiving benefits from this Trust include any of the directors of Premier Hotels Limited. This potentially bodes well for us.

Subud Boston Net Worth June 15, 2003

Cash and Checking

Cash	\$ 25.25
checking	\$ 816.06

Housing Fund

Morgan-Stanley	\$ 21,943.11
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Total

	\$ 22,784.42
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