



# A GOOD REED

SEPTEMBER 2018 ISSUE 53

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ACL AND SUBUD CENTRAL LONDON



Photo: Isaac Goff

## THE ESSENCE, THE ENTITY, THE WORK AND THE RESULT

Do not just keep asking for things but do something. If you ask but do nothing and you get what you ask for, you will have obtained it through cajoling. Anything you get through cajoling will not last long. It must come as a result of doing something. It is what Bapak described earlier: the essence, the entity, the work and the result.

*From Bapak Talks, Vol. 28, given in Solo, Indonesia, 2 Jan 1970. 70 SLO 1*

## FINE FARE FOR THE SEPTEMBER SCL SUBUD SUNDAY LUNCH.



## SUBUD BRITAIN NATIONAL CONGRESS 2018 —BUDGET DEBATES

The Subud Britain Congress which took place at Culford this August, was for me mostly a holiday. However, on the last day of the event, I found myself in the role of voting proxy for Myrna Jelman, our SCL Chair and Delegate at the Congress voting session. This was a remarkable experience for me, as I felt suddenly placed at the centre of a policy controversy. Although I had been well aware of this difficult issue, I did not expect to be directly involved with it.

Earlier this summer, faced with the prospect of renewing contracts for the suddenly vacant roles of National Secretary and Membership Secretary, the Subud Britain Trustees recognised that spending was unsustainable and our Human Resources (HR) management too onerous. Instead, a plan was put forward both to address the financial crisis and change the way National Council works. Rather than renewing contracts for paid staff within the Subud Britain

organisation, the work would instead be split up into small essential functions, and volunteers would be sought from the membership – See AGR July Issue [Katharine Walmsley's article] and The Journal August [Mahmud Roger's article] for volunteer advantages.

I personally am in favour of this initiative, both in principle and on practical grounds. I know from experience the special qualities of working for Subud as a volunteer, both from the inner and outer perspective. There is no doubt when we sincerely make a determined effort and have patience and perseverance, we are able to find all the support we need.

At the start of the SB Congress, around half of the necessary volunteers had been found. A budget was proposed which stripped out the paid staff, so income and expenditure was balanced. During the finance workshops, doubts about whether it would be possible to have an all-volunteer national executive emerged, referencing specifically to the post of National Secretary. Many

seemed to struggle to accept that it is possible to have a volunteer in that role, carrying out the work to a satisfactory standard.

By the time of the final voting session on Sunday, two potential budgets were contending. One with no allocation for National Secretary, the other with an allocation, balanced by a 12% increase in regional (i.e. group) contributions. I argued for the former, telling the delegates A) that the role is simply not too complicated or too heavy to be done well by volunteers, and B) that this budget represents our intention. I reasoned if the plan was to take money from the groups in order to pay a National Secretary, it would not represent a sincere effort to fill this role with a volunteer.

In the end, there was a large majority in favour of the budget planning for a paid role which would involve extracting more money from the groups to meet the costs. This recommendation

was supported by the entire national executive seated in front of the delegates and facilitating the meeting. Tensions were high and the few of us against the resolution, agreed to accept the will of the majority, which I felt was necessary at that time for the sake of our Brotherhood. We agreed to support the majority in order to avoid ending Congress in disharmony – while, at the same time, having let our serious disagreement be known by all.

So what now? To my surprise, by the very end of SB Congress, all the most important volunteer positions actually look like they will be filled, including the core legal functions that the National Secretary used to perform. Despite the result of the vote, I believe this looks promising for the future of how we work together and run our organisation. I hope there will be an article in the next Journal with details of those who have stepped forward

*Husayn Rogers*

## A WINTER FAIR AT THE AMADEUS?

This question is what Rohana Darlington is asking of SCL members when announcing her plans for a Winter Fair at the Amadeus to take place on November 25. If there are not enough offers of help/support by the next Subud Sunday, 7 October, the Group fund raising plan in aid of the refurbishment of the building, will be abandoned. In fact, 7 October Subud Sunday will be devoted to sharing plans with Rohana and those interested in helping with the Winter Fair. This will be followed by lunch and ensuing discussions and plans by the volunteers.



Rohana is an artist (see interview and work in AGR Issue 41 September 2017) and a well-known fundraiser for charities outside Subud. Although she is not on the current SCL Committee (husband Mushad is the SCL Committee Treasurer), she has offered her experience and skills to the Group.

What will be needed for the Winter Fair are offers of help to run stalls for books, cakes, unwanted items, (not second-hand clothes), toys, children's facilities for face painting, fun hair colours for children (washing out). Prizes and donations are needed for a Raffle. Creative types are wanted to make decorations, programmes and help set up stalls.



Stall holders needed to run services such as providing popcorn, etc. Musicians are wanted as are strong men to set up tables (even if they are one and the same individuals).

Help is already coming in. Rohana writes, 'So far we have had Matthew Lucas and Hannah Reeves offering piano and cello background music and another offer from Greg Perrin from Loudwater'. As Matthew Lucas has offered to coordinate the musical programme Rohana has referred Greg to him to follow up his suggestions and to work out what pieces of music would work best as background music for the event'.

The October 7th Subud Sunday will start with a Morning latihan, 10.45 am for 11.00 am, followed by Coffee and a briefing from Rohana followed by discussion and questions from those who wish to, help and support the Winter Fair. For those who want to volunteer but are unable to attend the 7 October Subud Sunday, contact Rohana at <[rohana@rohanadarlington.com](mailto:rohana@rohanadarlington.com)>

## SCL COMMITTEE HANDBOOK

This online Handbook is the brainchild of Hannah Reeves and Reynard Falconer. It has been emailed to all SCL members. Makes good reading, especially if any SCL man/woman ever decide to attempt Committee work. All the searching and enquiring into scanty job descriptions can be abandoned. If one has the patience to carefully read the Handbook, a lot of wisdom and information is unwrapped. Saves so much time asking around. Everything needed to be known is faithfully written up.

For instance, if you as a Committee member is under the illusion that sending out emails is in effect 'agreement' to your plans – WRONG. The Handbook states that emails can only be treated as 'NOTICEBOARDS' – not forums for discussion. Group meetings are created for discussion and for group assent to important decisions.

It is as important for Group members to be aware of their rights as it is for Committee members to know theirs. Perhaps a lot of the problems that members face in Subud are due to not knowing who does what, and who serves whom. So, although certain members get blamed for this or that problem, such as the current discovery that SB is short of funds, perhaps the blame lies with us who have little interest in how Subud works. A lot of work has gone into this handbook and one must applaud Hannah and Reynard who were on the last SCL Committee.

*Katharine*

## SIHA OPEN CIRCLE

The Annual Open Circle weekend is being organised this year from Thursday 4th to Sunday 7th October. The event takes place at Earth Springs in a beautiful 17th Century Farmhouse in Somerset.

This is a popular annual relaxing meeting where everyone does their own thing. They can meet, discuss lives or hang out in isolation. Accommodation varies from single rooms to dormitories, camping, and exquisite vegetarian meals.

For details of registration, bookings and costs, contact Arnold Bryan at <[arnoldsretreat@myphone.coop](mailto:arnoldsretreat@myphone.coop)>, tel: 01308 898788 or 07988 515523.

# EXAMPLES OF ZAT, SIFAT, ASMA AND AFAL

**abdu'Rashid Craig Writes:**

**S**udarto Martohudojo was one of the original members of the Subud Secretariat set up by Bapak shortly after 1947 when Subud was first registered officially in Indonesia. Many older members will attest to the wisdom of Pak 'Darto's advice, including me. He frequently told us that if a course of action we wished to pursue was right and in accordance with the Will of Almighty God, an indication of this was that the obstacles that faced us in carrying out such an action would disappear one by one as we set about making the action into a reality.

The explanation here shows what Bapak meant by the terms "Zat, Sifat, Asma and 'Afal", and their practical application. This is one of the subjects Ibu Rahayu referred to in her, as yet unpublished talk, at the last World Congress in Freiburg when she remarked that the Congress so far lacked a Kejiwaan content.

Here is a very simple illustration of this process, which has been transcribed (not by me) from an early edition of the 'Pewarta' (an early Subud booklet carrying Bapak's talks and members' letters). I am afraid I haven't yet been able to track down which issue of the Pewarta, but maybe someone out there will recognise the reference.

"Indications received in the Latihan Kejiwaan and the way to carry them out.

1. On Latihan day a member received in the latihan that he had to make a trip around Java by train. This indication touched only the essence (Zat) because at the time he had no money, the condition of his health was not good, and it was not possible for him to leave his job.

2. Three months later the same member received the same indication, but this time his state was quite different because his health was good, and he had enough money, but it was impossible for him to leave his work as a school-teacher. This kind of indication was rather clear because it touched the essence and the plan or schedule (Sifat).

3. After two months the same member received the same indication and at the time he had enough money, his health was good, and he was able to leave his post as a teacher because it was the time of the holiday. This kind of indication touched three things, namely the essence, the plan and the person who was to carry out the plan (Asma).

4. If that member carried out the indication at the time, and his feeling, heart and mind were in support of its fulfilment, it would become a reality ('Afal).

From the example given above we are aware that a true indication should fulfil four basic indications: the essence, the plan, the person and the reality. This, in carrying out a true indication, an action which is in accordance with the Will of God will go smoothly and usually it will go in just the right way."

*abdu'Rashid Craig 06/08/18*

# SHIP AHOY!

## BCU Kindergarten Opening Soon

BCU Founder and Pembina, Hamid da Silva, and Utami Geiger, BCU's Foundation Chairperson, today showed BCU School Yayasan preparations for their new kindergarten. Situated in a leafy inner suburb of Palangka Raya, Kalimantan, Indonesia, the opening was in July this year. It will serve the local community and act as a feeder for the main campus of BCU in Rungan Sari. A jaunty Pirate Ship in the front yard and vibrant, attractive colours within, ensuring smooth and happy days.



## DHARMA TRADING HELPING CHILDREN TO A BETTER LIFE

One of the entrepreneurs acknowledged by SES during the Congress at Freiburg is Isaac Goff, the founder of Dharma Trading, whose very successful business has been committed to supporting social projects for many years now. Through the proceeds of the business, Isaac Goff and his wife, Renee, have helped thousands of children achieve a better life, through access to needed healthcare and education. When the Goffs meant helping in healthcare, they were serious. Not sending blankets to the poor but paying for open heart surgery for 200 young children in Equador. They worked extensively for the welfare of children.



Dharma Trading was started by Isaac through being inspired by Bapak's Talks on the need for enterprise and the use of profits for the benefits of others.

In the video commentary Isaac Goff lists the variety of social causes involved: free cataract surgery, free glasses, paying deserving children's school fees,

and funding open-heart surgery for Bolivian children. This work is done through a Bolivian non-profit organisation.

To learn more about these projects view the video at the link below:

[Video Link](#)

## TALKING WITH GOD

I have been downhearted of late.  
Things not going well.  
I thought I'd keep safe  
It would all be OK  
it seems too extreme, the world on this  
earth  
it's intruding too much.  
Its upsetting my trust and well- being.  
  
'I did not promise perfection', says God  
'just a reasonable contract: the give and  
the take,  
the take and the give with love.  
Whatever your theories  
believers or not; creationists, scientists  
those who hazard a guess –  
Let's just say the universe was made  
and before it was made I was in it'  
  
I agree God, I say, it's a reasonable  
contract,  
and I could be more grateful for all that  
you are  
give thanks every second of breathing,  
but I find many things seem to get in the  
way  
I shudder and see the sky falling.

Sometimes I place you above the stars  
following dizzily, painting my path  
dabbing and splashing and trailing my  
thoughts  
dark lines and light ones shading my way  
exuberance and heartache  
a balance of colour.

Sometimes I raise up my fist to the sky  
and it falls on my head instead.  
I make a tunnel to crawl through  
eyes open or shut the thickness of black  
extinguishes sight  
til a glimmer of trust and an opening,  
sends a warm rush of air to my being.

Well then says God, 'a piece of advice  
Continue to test things, explore and play  
like sweet smelling children.  
Sparks of invention have blessings  
along with problems to share.  
It's all in the mix'  
'I am God', says God  
'I am here with you always  
sometimes you talk, and I listen  
sometimes I talk and you hear me,  
the best time is when we're together  
and all the words in the world are silent.'

*Maia Spall*

---

## FLAT TO LET

Spacious room in a shared flat to let in Camden. Ideal for single working professional/mature student or for use as a 2nd residence (£660 incl.pcm). 1-6 months. Call 07847385542 or <[dlog\\_zz@gmail.com](mailto:dlog_zz@gmail.com)>

## MESSAGE FROM OSANNA VAUGHAN

Osanna who edits SWN (Subud World News) invites anyone who attended the World Congress in Freiburg to feel free to share their Freiburg experience in the SWN. For details, contact <[osanna.vaughan.wcot2018@subud.org](mailto:osanna.vaughan.wcot2018@subud.org)>



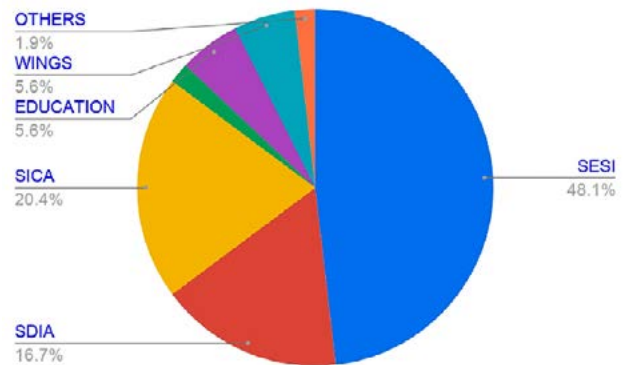
# SESI AWARD FINALS

The Subud Enterprise Services International

SESI held its finals of 50 Entrants for its \$100,000 Projects Funds at World Congress in Freiburg. The entrants were assessed at the Congress, although one entrant withdrew, leaving 49 entrants presenting their proposed projects.

20 winning entrants were awarded funding. For full details go to the [SESI AWARDS](#) pdf.

SESI AWARDS 2018



Wings Distribution

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 16 – SUNDAY

#### Thames Valley All Helpers' Latihan

Loudwater Farm WD3 4HG 11.45 for 12 noon  
Latihan

### SEPTEMBER 16 – SUNDAY

#### Latihan for Women Therapists & Bodyworkers

Lewes Subud House BN7 2DB  
12.00 for 12.15 Latihan

Lilliana Gibbs <[lilliana@theredcouch.co.uk](mailto:lilliana@theredcouch.co.uk)>

### SEPTEMBER 21-23 – FRIDAY-SUNDAY

#### National Council Meeting

Tunbridge Wells Subud House, 14 Culverden  
Down, TN4 9SA

Susannah Bolt <[exec.chair@subud.org.uk](mailto:exec.chair@subud.org.uk)>

### OCTOBER 7 – SUNDAY

#### Subud Sunday at the Amadeus

Latihan 10.45 am for 11.00 am

11.30 am -1.00 pm - SCL Committee Meeting

1.15 pm Lunch - please bring what you would  
have for lunch on Sunday.

Some mains provided.

6.15 pm for 6.30 pm evening Latihan

The Amadeus Centre, 50 Shirland Road,  
London W9 2JA

### OCTOBER 7 – SUNDAY

#### Thames Valley Regional Latihan

Loudwater Farm WD3 4HG

10.45 for 11am Latihan

Shared lunch—please bring some food.

Ridwan Treacher [nationalhelpers.thamesvalley@subud.org.uk](mailto:nationalhelpers.thamesvalley@subud.org.uk)

### NOVEMBER 16-18

#### All Helpers' Development Weekend

Plas Glansein SA19 9HY Melinda Heathcote  
[helpers.secretary@subud.org](mailto:helpers.secretary@subud.org)

## COMMENTS

- It is a very good reed. Hassanah Lawler
- I am in Melbourne now, but I love reading the Good Reed. Louisa Cox
- Well done, getting "Good Reed" written and out in such short time.  
Happy memories from Congress - Mary Crona

A GOOD REED – Monthly Newsletter of ACL and Subud Central London  
Editor: Katharine Walmsley – Layout & Production: Ridwan Treacher  
Distributed to Subud Members in the London Region and by request further afield.  
If you would like to be included in the distribution, or unsubscribe, please contact us:  
[editorialgoodreed@gmail.com](mailto:editorialgoodreed@gmail.com)