

WSA Chair, Zone 4 Austria & Wisma Mulia, England visits April 01-09 2012

European Easter Road Trip April 05-09 2012

The trip involved both a visit to my father at Wisma Mulia, England & attending Zone 4's gathering in Austria. I was to meet my 23rd year old daughter Alexandra at Heathrow, she flying in from Toronto, me from Vancouver. Inauspiciously, her flight was delayed 8 hours, mine 2 hours. I waited for her at the car rental depot outside Heathrow for the whole 8 hours.

Upon her arrival, we hugged thankfully & took our small diesel hatchback down to Wisma Mulia, the Subud retirement community 180 kms to the west.

Wisma Mulia, Subud Retirement Community - April 01-05

We spent 4 wonderful days with the 'Whizz-Kids' (as the average 91 year old residents are affectionately referred to) - half Subud, half non-Subud members now.



Luke and daughter Alexandra with Wisma residents

Day One (April 01 - appropriately April Fool's Day): catching up with everyone in Wisma. The gamut runs from Samuel & Helena Gudgeon in their mid 80s, to Simon [Penseny] at 89 years, through Maryse Lawrie, Jim Tysoe (former deacon at Coventry Cathedral), Patricia Lacey (Bapak's favourite housekeeper) and Helen (not in Subud) at 102 years, on the sofa all dressed up in the evening chill like Little Red Riding Hood! Because Wisma is subsidized by local authorities as well as

residents' payments & pension contributions, it is no longer possible to operate it exclusively for Subud members. So that now the mix is 50:50 Subud-non-Subud among the 30 or so residents. Still an example to others that need to develop such communities in the US, Germany, Canada, Australia, Indonesia, Argentina, etc.



Luke with Patricia Lacey

Day Two: taking Simon (my now 89 years old pa), cousin Monica Jones, who lives beside Wisma Mulia in the adjacent community housing providing support for the residents, Alexandra & myself (as getaway driver) on an outing.

We visited Castle Coombe Britain's 'most beautiful village' (meaning 'picture postcard' perfect) & had a relaxed pub lunch before returning home to rest at Wisma Mulia.

Day Three: visiting Helen Leask, widow of Ronald, Subud architect and former Susila Dharma Britain champion. We visited the periphery of beautiful Bath and had lunch beside the River Avon weir. Whizzing through the Cotswolds countryside, marvelling at springtime bursting through the warm green rolling hills. Small honey-coloured villages peeking out from mists blanketing hidden valleys.



Daughter Alexandra, cousin Helen and father Simon

B. Zone 4 Congress, Bad Voslau, Austria - April 05-09

Arrived mid afternoon hoping to catch the Opening Ceremonies, which I did. It was well attended, with 125+ delegates and attendees from sixteen of the countries in Zone 4. I arrived in time for reports from the sixteen.

From Austria and Denmark to Russia and the Ukraine the variety of contexts is extraordinary.



Zone 4 Meeting, Bad Voslau, Austria

Day Four: Simon exhausted and needing to rest up, Alexandra & I were able to visit David and Emma Barker (he is the chairman of Fountain Housing that has owned and operated Wisma Mulia since 1972!). We talked about his oil & gas exploration enterprise, Sonorex. Also my own mining research & exploration activities in northern British Columbia, and Alexandra's newly dynamic career in IT systems sales/marketing. Finally we completed her day off from Subud (☺) with a visit to my quite non-Subud cousin Mark & family, son of Vanessa Bigwood, who many will recall was one of the first IHs. The visit was punctuated by a whirlwind tour of my old home town, Bath - Britain's Georgian City.

Day Five, April 05: Alexandra & I rose at 05:00 to drive to Heathrow for an emotional parting as Alexandra headed home to Toronto, me onward to the Zone 4 meeting in Bad Voslau near Vienna.

Day Six: the second day of the Zone meeting gave us the opportunity to present the Wisma Subud Heritage Protection Project, supported by the WSA on behalf of Bapak and his family. Simon Guerrand, as a significant landowner, Josephine Bacikin, as co-chair of the project (alongside Pak Haryono, Bapak's son), and I as WSA chair, with WSA a major supporter of this initiative, gave an update report on Wisma Subud and the WS Heritage Protection Project, that aims to ensure both the protection of Bapak's former home as a new centre of culture/higher learning, but also the development of the community of approx. 100+ permanent residents, of whom almost 40% are now non Subud members.

Simon and I also discussed the Guerrand Hermès Foundation for Peace's work in the area of global peace initiatives and the past activity of the WSA in interfaith activities around the world. Hopefully in future we

can redefine the direction for WSA's outreach beyond Subud into the world at large. Via a renewed WSA participation in global events, inter-faith dialogue and cultural activities. Future WSA links to UNESCO as key UN cultural entity, had been endorsed by the WSC in 2010 (see below*).



Luke, Josephine and Simon

Day Seven: saw us address the Zone 4 budget. Also the criticality of communications in such a diverse and geographically concentrated area,. From Norway and Russia in the north/north east to Germany in the west, Greece in the south, and Israel in the south east - an extraordinarily diverse socio-economic region.

We were helped enormously in our review of key issues by using story-boards organized, along with the whole event, by Subud Austria. These were anonymous commentary boards for anyone to add comments on key issues for the Zone Gathering, including: Communications; Zone Rep & Team activities; WSA/International Activities, & Decision-making processes. Very concise, very effective!

The WSA team of Stuart Cooke and I provided an international overview on WSA/WSC, with Stuart providing an overview on SESI

I had a fruitful meeting with Frederic Richard past WSA Deputy Chair following up on the Great Malvern WSC discussion* on

the heritage & patrimony of Bapak, the latihan and Subud in the world.

After the meeting. Victor Böhm and I had a very strong, enlightening latihan with Frederic, who has been ill over the past eighteen months.

Day Eight: Easter Sunday ,dawned bright, clear and cold, with snow swirling in the air. We gathered after breakfast and our daily, morning latihan, to continue with the zone budget discussion.

Lacking time earlier on Wisma Subud, we reviewed current WSA support not only for Wisma Subud, but also Amanecer/Subud Colombia, Rungan Sari/Kalimantan mining & social development initiatives.

After a last lunch together shared with all six Area II International Helpers attending, I felt that I had to get away for awhile after three days indoors! So, I said to Ragna, "let's go into Vienna 45 minutes away, just for a break." She thought that would work as the IHS weren't meeting again until 18:00. I went looking for somebody to either drive us in or share renting a combi (wagon). As I passed through the hallways asking who might like to join me, Sachlan Crona heard me and went to see if his wife wanted to go, if he was driving us. But she stayed at the hotel and Hermine Rutz, Sachlan, Ragna and then Taufik Waage from Norway joined us, as we all squeezed into Sachlan's small rented VW Golf and took off for Vienna at 14:00 hrs!



Luke, Taufik, Ragna and Hermine

Arm in arm, braced against the biting easterly wind, we first stopped at the magnificent Klimt Secession Haus where his group of Expressionist colleagues built their cultural centre. We immediately felt the link to what SICA and the culture of the latihan seeks to express - not Klimt's decorative sensual lushness but how we can really bring forth our own work inspired by the latihan! We talked of Richard Engels's work, and that of others such as Ridwan Tompkins - all of whom we need to remember.

Then the Opera house and on through the late Medieval, Baroque, Empire and Art Deco sections of the Old City, to the Centrum, anchored by the old cathedral packed with Easter Sunday faithful and, of course, tourists huddled together out of the biting wind. Finally nearby, real Viennese chocolate and cakes, huddled again for warmth, with a particularly tired Hermine finally toasting us over genuine Vienna sachertorte cake out of the wind and whirling snowflakes!

We finally headed back to arrive in time for the final session of the Zone 4 gathering!
Day Nine: Easter Monday heading home to Canada with magnificent clear views over The Rockies!

These were some of the issues addressed at the gathering:

- **Recognition of the work of the Zone 4 Rep**, as well as the necessity of improving communications within the Zone as well as back to the WSA; supporting the Zonal Committee;
- **Recognizing the importance of Zonal consensus** on matters such as the honorarium for the Zone 4 Rep., since Austria did not feel that it

had been fully heard; once heard, it was free to accept the wishes of the majority, who felt that the honorarium should finish in April;

- **Fuller understanding of the work of the WSA, WSC and SESI**; presentations on WSA/WSC, Wisma Subud & SESI helped improve awareness; there was that 'Ah!' moment on several occasions, signifying deeper appreciation of the WSA' work for members;
- **5-major areas of WSA activity** (Enterprise revitalized; Archives/heritage; Centres/community; Organization/Communication; Finances/fundraising);
- **International Centres overviews & support** work, including Wisma Subud as Bapak's former home, Adi Puri and WS' development as a heritage centre embodying Subud values;
- **Enterprise renewal** both at macro/large enterprise level, as well as micro/member-based endeavours; there is better understanding now of the need to revisit both; to 'Begin again' as Ibu had advised in 2010.

blessings

Luke

WSA chair 2010-2014