

## SUBUD YOUTH ACTIVITIES REPORT

### GATHERING OF THE AMERICAS AT AMANECER



Elias Morgado, Chile youth coordinator, and friends

I arrived at Amanecer a few days before the gathering with the thought that my wife and I could help to prepare for those coming in a few days. It was amazing; everything was in order. The rooms were ready. The grounds were prepared. And as some local members were surely aware, the bats were out of the Grand Salon, our main latihan hall.

My wife Marisa and I actually were able to go on a tour to Salento, a nearby tourist attraction, during one of the days. Now, I was starting to wonder

what kind of program we would have for the young members once they started arriving. I had not planned anything in advance, not knowing who would be there, and what interests they might have other than having fun, and what had already been planned.

It was very loose and members from other countries and outlying groups in Colombia gradually were arriving. There were meetings and latihan happening most of the day so it would be difficult to gather the young members at that time, so on the second night, together with Valentina De Los Rios, the sixteen-year-old youth coordinator for Subud Colombia, and others, we planned a meeting for 10:30 pm. It was in a small room that would accommodate about 20. Well, at first there were 10, then 20. When there got to be 30, we moved into the latihan hall. It topped off at about 75, and there began our youth meetings at Amanecer. It was as if a well-spring of energy had erupted. So spontaneous, so beautiful.

Most nights after that, we would gather again at 10:30 pm to organize, test, plan and have fun. After we gathered, most would go to the late night campfires until the early morning hours. There were about 125 members under 32 years of age in attendance at Amanecer. About 100 of these were from Colombia. Also, four youth were opened at the gathering.

On one afternoon Sharif Horthy and his wife Tuti had an open session with the youth. As it turned out, most everybody attended. Over 250 people in all. Sharif and Tuti accepted questions from the floor, and then replied as they felt. Some of the questions from youth were: (To Sharif) How was your personal experience being so close to Bapak and translating talks? What can I do when my latihan is sometimes strong and other times boring? Should my latihan have a direction? How is the latihan affected by the use of drugs? What about

testing questions to guide my life? The session lasted about two hours and gave a good indication of the thirst for the latihan and for deepening the Subud experience that the youth have.

The youth separated a bit into those wishing to work on something concrete and those wishing to get to know each other by dancing, bonfires, going to the lake to swim, playing volleyball and more. Most did some of both.

The main area of attention of the work was getting to the world congress in 2010. The young members of Subud Colombia got together and formulated a plan by which two people would be selected for sponsorship to the world congress by the national and international helpers. Nearly 100 people put their names forward to be considered. The process of narrowing the names down will happen over the next month, and by three months the international helpers will test to determine the two selections. Young members from other countries attended these meetings so they might go back to their homes and select people to sponsor as well.



Hamilton's wife, Marisa, Maryam Roldan, Colombia National Secretary, and Hamilton

Another decision suggested by the youth and presented by Lucas Roldan, the chairman of Subud Colombia, is to have a Pan American Youth Gathering at Amanecer during Easter week 2009. That is the second week of April. The planning for this gathering has begun.

I wish to thank all the youth that I met for their cooperation and participation in a highlight of my time as SYAI co-coordinator. I regret that Rhyana Blakeley who works as coordinator with me was not able to attend. She was really missed. Our hopes are that there will be young members representing most of the countries at the world congress to work, play, laugh, sing, dance, do latihan and keep us young. Sorry if you weren't there at Amanecer. It was magical.

With love,  
Hamilton Manley