

WSA chair report on Subud USA Congress, Washington DC & Durham visits – May 22-30th 2014:

Preamble:

At the last minute instead of visiting Subud Durham for the official June opening of its new Subud centre, I realized there was an opportunity to visit SUSA Congress in Pittsburgh, then travel to Washington & Durham to visit the newly developed Subud centres. Of course I jumped at the opportunity with help from both my WSA budget & sponsorship within Subud USA to achieve more.

Arrivals Day:

I arrived via San Francisco on the red-eye in Pittsburgh early May 22nd from Vancouver on the first (kejiwaan) day of SUSA Congress. Stepping into the first latihan I saw all my dear Subud USA brothers. Afterwards greeting my sisters we then all then watched Bapak's 1981 Hoboken/NY Talk together. I remember the occasion as it were yesterday, so powerful an experience was it.

New SUSA Team:

Next day we proceeded with the election of the new SUSA committee seeing Shoshanah's extraordinary team step down in favour of prior vice chair Daniel Stralberg. In two short years the SUSA team with amazing focus has completely reorganized SUSA back office operations, a new virtual (soon to be rehoused in DC) national office/virtual manager(!), office database & upgraded membership services. An extraordinary feat in such a short time!



To complete the process Mary Wold stepped up as Daniel's new vice chair, even as she prepares her Family Program for World Congress. The feeling of trust, harmony & most of all extraordinary competence & experience makes SUSA alongside Subud Britain among others the most organized/experienced Subud organizations anywhere.

US Reports & WCOT team meetings:

SUSA began to report on the state of its 2000 members, organized in 7 regions, 50+ groups & communities as well as the work of its national endowment fund, the wings SD, SICA SES etc in the US. In parallel, members of the WCOT World Congress Organizing Team Maya Korzybska/co-chair, Fernando Fatah/co-chair & Mary Wold/Family Program in Pittsburgh & I met along with Latifah Taormina/SICA, Elaina Dodson/IH & Sharifudin Harris/SUSA NH (delegated to support the WCOT men).

Also the Machado sisters/WCOT customer service & others. We had a unique opportunity to discuss the context, roles & challenges ahead in the short two months left before Congress in Puebla.

WSA & WCOT reports to Congress:

Led by my presentation on the past 4-5 years work of the WSA & WSC as well as on current events in Subud, we also reviewed Ibu's 'signposts' to us over the past 4 years. The full house listened to Maya,



Fernando, Marston, Latifah, the Macahdos & Elaina talk of Congress preparations, clearly interested in the logistics as well as the content of Congress with perhaps 25% of the 100+ attendees at the evening are planning on attending Congress. If this translates to all SUSA members then 400-500 members could come. Unfortunately we are not yet seeing these numbers from SUSA. Members are hesitating/concerned about cost. Not yet perhaps fully aware of the deep significance of Congress.

SUSA entertainment evening:

As Congress wound down we shared an eclectic evening of poetry, repartee, dialogues, rollicking music & dance, all coordinated by the mercurial, ever effervescent Emmanuel Williams.

Washington DC visit:

Leaving Congress the evening before the final Congress morning Maya, Fernando & I drove down to DC with Daimanhuri & Rohana Alkaidis. On Monday we had our day off to visit the newly named Subud Washington Amani Center, now almost completed after 6 months of build-out based on modular construction. The building set just outside the DC outer beltway & radial rail network in a renewing (rising real estate values) older suburban, blue collar community. It is a magnificent white (frankly church-looking which helps it fit into the neighborhood.) 5000+ sq. foot



large house on three levels. Latihan/community spaces on the the lower levels. Meeting rooms for SUSA, Subud Washington/East Coast and other projects/enterprises both Subud & non-Subud anchored by a magnificent conference room. Hopefully WSA/WSC/MSF & other wings will soon have a nameplate/office address alongside the SUSA office being so close to Washington as a preminent international power centre.

Day off:

On our final day together we had our full day off with a visit to Washington. Barbara Thomas chair of Subud DC dropped us off on the day after Memorial Day with so many veterans still in DC. We visited The Lincoln Memorial, the Mall, Washington Monument & the Capitol. After 3-4 hours walking Washington in 34C/95F heat(!) I left our group to first visit our dramatic modern Canadian embassy on Pennsylvania Avenue. Then a visit to the World Bank to meet a sustainable resource (oil/gas & mining) development contact. An excellent meeting that I hope will develop towards work as an advisor with the Bank after our WSA work is completed in Puebla.



Durham visit:

Next day I hired a car to drive down one hour to visit Rashad Pollard in N. Virginia en route to Durham, Carolina. I found Rashad relaxed and working hard on preparing for SESI' work at Congress. Open on his table (and on mine now as I write.) a copy of Bapak's World Congress talks Wolfsburg 1975 being the most explicit in terms of how Congresses need to be structured.



Then 3 hours more along I85 to Durham and a warm welcome from Rusdi Bustillo and the 40-member Bustillo family's Durham US hub (100 more are spread throughout the world.) We met briefly that evening despite my weariness to talk of the state of Subud and the importance of rejuvenated centres like Durham with its fast track 15 month development of a new Subud house and its 'church-style' centre alongside an old small church. Next day we toured the new Subud house and had lunch together with 10-12 family members in town. That evening 40 of us gathered at least 20 being under 30 years old and fresh, full of good energy and enthusiasm for Subud. After a strong latihan together we tested about Facing Almighty God, a healing latihan inwardly/outwardly and receiving new courage; then the potential of this extraordinary group and finally the significance of World Congress and facing it fully.

In the talk afterwards we talked of Subud's growth and the importance of communities. Of how Subud is maturing, healing from past difficulties. That at last there is a gradual awakening occurring; I read Ibu's most recent letter re.my journeys: (paraphrasing) 'Subud is maturing and the pioneers need to remind members of Bapak's guidance in preparing for the next generations in Subud.'

Durham is an extraordinary example of this awakening and preparing for the future. It is really two families: Bustillos and Wards making up 90% of the group, with new members coming in drawn by the strong energy of the extraordinarily harmonious development of the new centre. It was a seamless development taking only 18 months from start to finish even taking into account the low purchase price (\$85,000) of the little church and its 7 acres. An outstanding example of harmony of purpose and harnessing young and older energy (there are few members over 50!)

As the US tour drew to a close, as I was taken to small Durham airport for my flight home to Vancouver via Chicago. An extraordinary 9-day visit of immersion in the growth and development of Subud in the USA.

Home again and World Congress only 6 weeks away -
Love and blessings

Luqman - WSA/WSC chair 2010-14
Ex.officio trustee/director MSF SDIA SICA