



**MISSION**

The Muhammad Subuh Foundation honors the name of the founder of Subud, Bapak Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo. It serves to build a lasting financial capacity for the Subud community, with dedication to the long-term aims of the World Subud Association.

**VISION**

The Foundation envisages a Subud community that is active and effective in the world, in all fields of human endeavor. It supports this vision by providing financial and other assistance to a wide-range of activities and programs, including social and humanitarian work, cultural endeavors, youth projects, and others.

**VALUES**

As trustees of the Muhammad Subuh Foundation, we are guided in our work by the following values:

**Openness**

We are committed to working through our guidance from Almighty God in making decisions and carrying out our actions.

**Diversity**

We value diversity of the human spirit and recognize the uniqueness of each human being.

**Integrity**

We base our relationships with our donors, recipients, and the community on mutual trust, candor, and transparency.

**Sustainability**

We believe in effecting sustainable change with transformational goals and measurable positive outcomes, recognizing that how things are done is as important as what is done.

# Preparing for uncertain times ahead...

We are all touched by the current economic climate. Whatever our situation, our anxiety climbs as we watch the stock market rise and fall. Believe it or not, there is an upside to this situation: This anxiety forces us to work more closely together to support one another during these turbulent times. Currently, the Muhammad Subuh Foundation is working with other international Subud Associations, such as the Susila Dharma International Association and the treasurer of the World Subud Association, to strengthen each other so that the risk to the collective assets of our Association is kept to a minimum.

The Muhammad Subuh Foundation also looks to you, the members of our Subud Association, for your continuing and generous support as, during times like these, the need for assistance to disadvantaged groups and individuals becomes even greater.

As always, we are here to provide resources and answer questions about how contributions can be mutually beneficial to our Subud Association and to the generous donor who gives to it.



The Francois & Lucienne Farkas Fund supports education initiatives for disadvantaged children in several parts of the world. Above: More than 30 children in Central Kalimantan benefit from Farkas Fund support.

## The Lucienne and Francois Farkas Fund



Francis (Feri) Farkas (top) and Lucienne Farkas

*The Farkas Fund is one of three endowment funds administered by MSF.*

The Farkas Fund, named by an anonymous donor in honor of Lucienne and Francois (Feri) Farkas, was established to support scholarships for young people and to help make Bapak's talks available to Subud members. Lucienne and Feri are remembered with great affection by many Subud members who found an example in their devotion to Subud, to Bapak and Ibu. Their dedication to helping younger Subud members in the New York group created a Subud family of loving support and gentle guidance, which included, among others, Daniel Cheifetz, Shoshanah Margolin, Irin Poellot, and Michael and Stuart Cooke. Varindra Vittachi was a frequent visitor who often played chess with Feri. Though the apartment was small, Michael Cooke remembers that it seemed to expand to accommodate visitors.

Collecting information for this article, I learned of how this unusual Subud couple touched the spiritual and emotional lives of many New York members who visited their small apartment on 335 West 52<sup>nd</sup> Street. Those I spoke with mentioned the beauty and solace of their apartment which was filled with treasures from their European background. A deeply in-love couple who had suffered many hardships, their devotion to one another seemed to enlarge into an ongoing welcome of their Subud family. They invited members regularly to enjoy Lucienne's delicious stuffed grape leaves, Hungarian beef goulash, and other Arabic treats that she made in her small kitchen or found in different markets around the city. Going to their apartment was akin to finding a Subud home-away-from-home. Shoshanah Margolin felt their home was a peaceful oasis in a tumultuous time, a place of beauty and stimulation. *"I admired their marriage",* Shoshanah said, *"and how Lucienne was connected to her spiritual practice (latihan) and to God. She offered words of wisdom that helped me find my place in Subud in the early years."* Irin Poellot found that Lucienne was such a model for her at a time when she was a single woman working and living in New York. Irin recalls those lunch-break *latihans* she could always count on at Lucienne's apartment. To this day, she feels she is still influenced by Lucienne in her work as a *helper*.

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For further information, please  
see the Foundation's website:

[http://  
www.msubuhfoundation.org](http://www.msubuhfoundation.org)

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If you know of anyone who would  
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## Farkas Fund, continued

Stuart Cooke has written of how Feri and Lucienne met in mid-thirties-Paris at a time when Feri, a Hungarian, was disillusioned over the state of humanity following WWI. When he met Lucienne, to his surprise, he fell madly in love with the young woman who had attended a finishing school in France, followed her home to Cairo, and married her. In Cairo, Lucienne, who came from a wealthy Turkish-Jewish family, enjoyed entertaining artists and intellectuals, like Lawrence Durrell and Albert Cossery. Feri, whose interests were invested in his adored wife and spiritual matters, had studied Gurdjieff, John Bennett, and had become a Sufi. He studied Arabic in order to read the Koran in its original language and met with a variety of mystics. During this period he kept much to himself at the brilliant parties in his home, still suffering the after-effects of the war. Lucienne felt at home in all religions and attended services in the Catholic, Islamic, Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, Coptic and Jewish faiths. She loved the arts: dance, theatre, music, painting, sculpture, and cinema, and was a linguist who spoke Turkish, Arabic, Spanish, French, English, Greek, and Italian.

In June of 1942, Rommel and his army were 60 miles from Cairo; Feri and Lucienne fled along with her father and his wife, Rachel, to Palestine, leaving everything behind. Feri had worked as a very successful camera-man and a film-maker in Hungary, Germany and Cairo, but his work was disrupted by the war. As refugees in Palestine, unable to access their assets in Cairo and unable to find work, they lived in near-poverty until the end of the war. Although they returned to Cairo in the mid-1950's, they agreed to emigrate to the U.S. due to Egypt's strong anti-Semitism.



Feri and Lucienne learned about Subud through John Bennett. Feri was impressed by Subud's openness, for he felt in all of his studies and seeking, never had he found a spiritual path that accepted anyone regardless of social background, learning or status. Feri's older sister, Ray, sponsored them and gave them the small apartment on East 53<sup>rd</sup> street that became a haven for Subud members. Life in the U.S. was challenging as Feri was not in a union and consequently it took some time for him to find camera work at his level of expertise. He worked as a lighting adjustor and then worked making advertising films. In 1963 Feri made a documentary film of the Second World Congress at Briarcliff, NY. After the Congress, he began work on editing the reel to reel tapes of Bapak's talks in his small kitchen, advertising their availability, keeping records as he packed and mailed them with the "skill of an engineer" (Stuart Cooke).

Michael Cooke, who served as a kind of "secretary" to Feri, and later cared for Lucienne for years after Feri's death was impressed by Feri's "inner quiet" and his ability to be detached from his passions. Michael recalls, "The attention they gave was truly on you." They emanated love. Whenever his heart was heavy, Michael could go to their place and feel lightened of his burdens.

Feri was very clear-sighted and could see our foibles, Michael states, but he was able to transcend those flaws. Michael particularly remembers one day; observing a man whom Feri had been angry with for his bad behavior. When the man approached his door, there was no trace of annoyance in Feri—he was genuinely happy to welcome this man. Musing on Feri's ability to forgive, he believes that this ability to transcend his own judgments was not only a Subud gift, but a deeper part of Feri's character. For Michael, this complete acceptance was so strong that he always felt his best self come forward when he was visiting with Feri and Lucienne. He happily mimics Feri's intonation as he tells how he was taken aside by Feri after some rudeness he no longer remembers. "Michael," he said, "It's like this. It's very simple. You have to think of the other person." To this day Michael continues to recall Feri's voice as he goes about his daily life.

\*\* I am indebted to all those who shared their memories with me and their emotional connection to Lucienne and Feri Farkas: Daniel Chelfetz, Michael and Stuart Cooke, Shoshanah Margolin and Irin Poellet, and others have kept the memory of this Subud couple alive. Simone Paige, MSF Trustee

To make a contribution to the Farkas Fund, please visit: <http://www.msubuhfoundation.org>

## FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS

### Seeking an Executive Director

To enable the Foundation to expand our services to the Subud membership, we are currently looking for someone to serve as Executive Director. This is a newly-created post which will begin on a part-time basis, about 25 hours per week. Successful candidates will have experience in communications and administration, with legal and accounting experience preferred, and second-language skills a plus. The Executive Director would work from his/her home, so a computer and internet access are required.

For more information, please see the job description on the Foundation's website: <http://www.msubuhfoundation.org> or contact Lillian Shulman at: [lillianshulman@netscape.net](mailto:lillianshulman@netscape.net)

### New National Liaison appointed

Martin (Taufik) Waage has recently been appointed as the Foundation's national liaison for Norway. Taufik, a former international helper and long-time member of the Subud Association, was nominated by the Norwegian national congress. Taufik can be reached at: [martin.waage@adsl.no](mailto:martin.waage@adsl.no)

# MSF Donor Recognition

*With the recent sale of PT S Widjojo, many shareholders & certificate holders generously donated a portion of their proceeds to MSF to "give back to Subud".  
Our sincerest thanks to these and other recent donors:*

## General Fund

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Patricia Auffret  
Martin (Taufik) Waage  
Hassanah Combs  
Anonymous

## Bapak Legacy Fund

Harlinah Lyons  
Hanafi Libman

## Youth travel to World Congress 2010

Hamilton Manley

## Ibu Rahayu Travel Fund

Hanafi Libman

## Bapak's Talks Project

Hanafi Libman

## Youth Travel Fund

Hanafi Libman  
Matthew d'Hamer

To support MSF and its projects, please visit:  
<http://www.msubuhfoundation.org/fundFS.htm>

## Foundation projects: Subud Houses

### Amanecer International Centre, Colombia



The Amanecer International Center is situated in a rural setting on a hill with a view of the mountains and snow-capped peaks of the Central Andes mountain range. It was built during 1991-1993, and is situated on 6.8 hectares; 12 kilometers from Armenia, in the center of Colombia. The Muhammad Subuh Latihan Hall in Amanecer is owned by MSF Colombia through a grant of \$250,000.

Designed by Muchtar Martins, a Subud architect, the hall is much admired for its beauty and originality. Designed for large numbers of people, there is space enough to do latihan and simultaneously have meetings, which was especially helpful during the Subud World Congress of 1993, held at Amanecer. Owning our own congress facilities enables us to channel Congress revenues back to Subud.

The 2000 square meter hall has a capacity for 1000 seated people and has seven rooms surrounding it as an independent annex for meetings of up to 40 people per room. The hall's conference and meeting facilities, coupled with conference management experience and expertise developed since 1993, make it a favoured venue for large and prestigious events and gatherings.

Three local Subud enterprises, a school, a hostel and a restaurant, generate most funds for sustaining Amanecer.

Muhammad Subuh Foundation 1993 Grant, US \$250,000

**Amanecer**  
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