



# MUHAMMAD SUBUH FOUNDATION

*Supporting The Aims Of Subud For A Better World*



## NEWS *October 2013*

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« Bapak Muhammad Subuh with Varinda Vittachi.  
Varindra's dream led to the founding of MSF 22 years ago.

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# WELCOME

## Message from the Chair of the Muhammad Subuh Foundation



*Dear brothers and sisters,*

In this edition of the Muhammad Subuh Foundation's Enews, we focus on the recent annual meeting of the Foundation in Poio, Spain. It was an extraordinary event that, I feel is worth sharing with you all.

We also have updates on recent grants to the Portland and Bangkok Subud Houses and the latest news from our brothers and sisters in Mina Clavero, Argentina.

I would also like to welcome Michael Heathcote to the MSF Board of Trustees. Michael's expertise in the financial sector will be a true asset to the Foundation. I would also like to express my sincerest appreciation to Heloise Jackson, who is standing down as trustee for health reasons. We thank her for her dedication to the work of the Foundation and wish her the very best in the future.

And finally, October marks the 22nd anniversary of the Foundation and we will take a brief look back at how it all came to be.

With Love,



Bactiar Lorot



## MUHAMMAD SUBUH FOUNDATION

*Supporting The Aims Of Subud For A Better World*

### 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 emphasis on 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 many fields of human endeavor. It supports this vision by providing financial and other assistance to a wide-range of activities and programs aimed at improving the condition of the communities they serve, including social and humanitarian work, cultural endeavors, child and youth

### VALUES

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

**Integrity** In making decisions and carrying out our actions, we are committed to working through personal integrity and best practice combined with inner guidance and common sense.

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

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

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

# POIO - MOVING FORWARD

By Bachtiar Lorot

“ Today the feeling is to focus on the Foundation’s resources for the long term development of Subud – Susila Budhi Dharma – by strengthening the latihan and preserving its original quality as received by Bapak, so the latihan can be passed on from generation to generation for the benefit of humankind.”



Sometimes, but rarely, one may say “this has been an extraordinary event”. The 2013 MSF annual meeting in Poio, Spain, had this quality.

During the first quarter prior to the meeting, the Foundation team gradually felt the need to revisit the content, the mission, the functioning of the Foundation; like a flower bud, that is suddenly ready to blossom without being aware of how it came to life...

Consequently, the MSF team agreed to take advantage of the annual meeting to be part of an indepth team building session and review the Foundation’s mission and its relationship with WSA. The one day and a half team building session, facilitated by Mahmud Nestman, lasted 3 days. It had an enormous effect on the quality of the following working days.

We collectively explored the meaning of “working with the latihan” and “being in harmony” in view of improving altogether, not only our common understanding, but also our capacity to put them into practice.



A big thank you from Bachtiar to Mahmud for helping MSF to "flower".

“ At the end of the team building session, we had the sense that we were given an unexpected “extra” that enables us to “love and respect” each other, not because we share the same ideas, cultures, or understanding, but because we were just human beings.”

We used all the means and tools available, such as testing sessions, sharing sessions, talking from the right place, listening without inner talking... This allowed us to address in a respectful and open manner the difficult issues that sometime characterize human relationships.

At the end of the team building session, we had the sense that we were given an unexpected “extra” that enables us to “love and respect” each other, not because we share the same ideas, cultures, or understanding, but because we were just human beings. The veil of the human world may have been to a certain extent smoothly awakened for us to witness the quality and the functioning of the human force and the strength of the human soul in creating and nourishing “harmony”.

The fourth day we were ready to do our work; it was done in a completely unplanned manner : a 3 hours topic lasted more than 2 days or a one-day-planned session was completed in 15 minutes. ...The flower buds blossomed into 10 colorful petals.

When we left the meeting to go home, longing to rest from an exhausted and intense 10 days work, the separation was longer than usual as if a little something did not want to be apart; it was, perhaps, a little “Grain of Togetherness” that was sowed within us.

### **New Clarity for the Foundation**

The main outcome of the 2013 MSF annual meeting is certainly the clarity and the simplicity of the Foundation’s mission and activities.

We confirmed that the primary priority of the Foundation is “to hold, maintain and build up assets on behalf of WSA” (Program 1). Those assets include the investment portfolio (financial asset) and the physical asset such as the Amanecer Big Hall or Bapak’s House in Wisma Subud.

The second priority concerns the “receiving of donations and bequests” (Program 2). We reached an agreement with WSA, that the Foundation will no longer be engaged in any fundraising effort in order to preserve its noble status and integrity; WSA will be the one that will raise awareness among the Subud Community about the need to build up a strong financial body for the long term development of Subud.

The “support to Subud groups to own latihan premises” was acknowledged as being the third priority (Program 3) but the first one in terms of the Foundation’s grant activities. We agreed also with the WSA, that the responsibility of supporting Subud groups to grow to a point where they need and are capable of owning, using and maintaining a Subud house or a latihan facility remains within the WSA, thanks to its efficient and well organized networks of helpers and committees.

The travel to Subud groups of the international helpers is the fourth priority of the Foundation (Program 4).

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The WSA budget for the IH travel to Subud groups is increasing due to the growing needs of members all over the world. The Foundation is keen to financially support this WSA activity.

Finally, the Foundation understands the importance of supporting the preservation of and the access to Bapak's and Ibu Rahayu's talks and advice to members (Program 5).

Of course, when the Foundation has the financial capacity, it may support the development process of the Wings, such as SICA and SDIA (Program 6).

Today the feeling is to focus on the Foundation's resources for the long term development of Subud – Susila Budhi Dharma – by strengthening the latihan and preserving its original quality as received by Bapak, so the latihan can be passed on from generation to generation for the benefit of humankind.

As so, the twofold missions of the Foundation to build up a strong financial capacity for the future and support the "Kedjiwaan" activities through the ownership of latihan facilities, IH travels and access to Bapak's and Ibu Rahayu's talks give the Foundation the strength of a simple, clear and clean mission.

# THE FUTURE OF THE Legacy Project



In Poio, the Foundation presented its recommendations for the transfer of the Legacy Project to the World Subud Association. The Legacy Project was a program of the Muhammad Subuh Foundation to raise awareness of the importance of caring for Subud's archives and to fundraise for the support the WSA archives program, most importantly the preservation of Bapak's and Ibu Rahayu's audio and video recordings and their easy access by Subud members.

The shift of The Legacy Project to WSA is in accordance with Ibu Rahayu's recent advice to the Foundation wherein she recommended that MSF not be involved with fundraising programs.

Once the handover is complete, it will be up to the WSA to decide whether to continue to implement the program in its present form, alter it to suit their aims and to integrate well with their other ongoing efforts, or to discontinue the program altogether in favor of another.

The recommendations included the Foundation closing its Legacy Project Facebook page, amending its website, and removing any reference to the program in its media materials.

The Foundation was pleased to assist the WSA with the creation of this program and is confident that WSA will continue to do an excellent job caring for Subud's greatest physical and spiritual asset, the recorded works of both Bapak and Ibu Siti Rahayu.

# GRANTS

## SUBUD HOUSE

At the MSF meeting in Poio, the Foundation approved grants for Subud houses in Thailand and the United States. Here are updates on the these two groups.

“Subud Thailand is committed to following Bapak’s guidance for the growth and development of ourselves and Subud and applying to MSF is an outward expression of this closeness and respect we feel for Bapak.”

Rosali Meepaubul Chairperson, Subud Thailand



Exterior of the new Subud Bangkok Hall, almost ready for the next Zone meeting!

*Subud Thailand reports:*

Subud Thailand was established in 1964 and has continued uninterruptedly for 50 years. The group has hosted both Bapak and Ibu Rahayu. Mostly our history is one of doing latihan in members’ homes. This was the case until about 2001 when we started renting a large empty apartment in an empty apartment building awaiting renovation. Eventually the building was

renovated and we had to give up our latihan premises in 2005 and we moved to Istafiah Vogel’s house. This has been good because it is in a relatively central location, has sufficiently large rooms and is more or less isolated from neighbors.

Bangkok is a small group but we are very hospitable and thrive on receiving guests whether on their way to or returning from Indonesia or Australia or holidaying in Thailand. The new hall makes it easier to arrange latihan for guests outside the usual latihan time and also it enables us to offer overnight accommodation if necessary. It’s hard to say what the full significance of the hall is; we don’t expect an influx of new members, but we don’t rule it out either! Having a dedicated Subud Hall feels to some extent like a young person moving out of the parental home to express his/her independence but aligned, we hope, to the Will of God.

The construction of the hall would not have been possible without the financial support of individuals and groups in Zones 1 and 2 and without a substantial grant from MSF to complete the interior work.

**Subud Thailand will host the Zones 1 and 2 Meeting from 4-7 October and during that time we will arrange a selamatan to inaugurate the new Subud Hall!**



Subud Bangkok Group



Outside the Portland Subud House

## Subud Portland

*Fayra Teeters, Portland Subud Chair reports:*

I formed a grant-writing committee consisting of Latham Stack, Haris Wolfgang, Morris & Leana McClellan, Michael Alexander, Raphael Baker, and Emile Ward. Although I wrote the grant, they had the daunting task of rounding up all of the supporting documents and renovation bids to support Subud Portland's case that the upgrades to our 90 year old building were necessary to maintain our lovely Subud House as a flagship in the Subud Pacific Northwest properties. Subud Portland was awarded an MSF Grant for the renovation, expansion and upgrade of our historical, yet sagging, Subud House. Part of our expansion will be to build out the front deck to create additional space for Visioning Forums, social gatherings, potluck barbeques, and to make the house more attractive to renters for wedding receptions, memorial services, and birthday parties.

Subud Portland is a magnet for creative people who are hugely welcome to our family! In addition to Masque Alfresco theatre events, Morris McClellan (Subud National Treasurer) is a folk-singer with a regional reputation and sense of humor - who provides song-and-joke fests. We have monthly movie nights, projecting rarely seen flicks on our walls. We have Poetry & Song Sharing Nights, gathering informally in our lounge area

over chocolate & lattes. We've had a Murder Mystery Event, where everyone attending played a role. We've had India Dinners to raise funds for Susila Dharma, where the ladies dressed in their finest East Indian silks, and a professional chef cooked our sumptuous dinner! Peter and Alexandra TerHorst have facilitated several Visioning Sessions and will continue to provide this wonderful Open Forum for the Portland Subud membership. To launch our Pledge Drive we had a barbeque potluck dinner, rap & songfest gathering that also honored Bapak's Birthday and featured all of our newest members!

Part of what makes Subud Portland so active and culturally vibrant is that my theatre, Masque Alfresco, is headquartered at the Portland Subud House. We are into our 12th year of providing Summer Park Tours, bringing modern, updated versions of commedia dell'arte plays to parks throughout greater Portland - FREE to the general public, family friendly, multi-generational, with contemporary references: celebrity slams & political jokes - yet retaining all the charm of commedia traditions: slapstick beatings, hat lazzi, colorful period costumes. We also add songs & raps & funky movement ballets.



The Masque Alfresco theater group is headquartered at the Portland Subud House

# HELLO and GOODBYE

*While in Poio, a new MSF trustee was tested in as Heloise Jackson was standing down for health reasons. The Foundation wishes to welcome Michael Heathcote as we bid Heloise farewell.*



hello

The Muhammad Subuh Foundation is pleased to welcome Michael Heathcote as a new MSF trustee, replacing Heloise Jackson.

Michael was born and educated in London. He is married and has four children. He joined Subud in London in 1972 and has held many positions in Subud, both as a committee member and as a helper. Michael brings extensive financial experience to the Foundation. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales and runs his

own consultancy practice where he acts, or has acted, as Director or Financial Consultant to various public and private companies. He is also a trustee of various community based charities.

*"It was suggested to me that I might consider putting my name forward for the vacant position of MSF Trustee literally a few days before the date for applications closed. I believe that there is a blessing from God for putting your name forward to test for Subud posts (if it seems*

*right); whether you're tested in or not. This was a case in point as I had no feeling before then to apply. When I was tested in (in my absence as I was not at the meeting in Spain) I went to our men National Helpers and tested with them the full meaning of the role to me personally and Subud. I hadn't fully appreciated until then how important MSF was for the future growth of Subud in the world and I feel privileged to be able to contribute whatever part I can towards this."* Michael Heathcote, new MSF trustee



## **Heloise reflects on her last official meeting with MSF in Poio and on being a trustee:**

I had last been in Poio four years ago and as my taxi approached the massive fortress-like building, the memory of that week spent with my former International helper colleagues, came flooding back. I

dropped my bag at the reception and joined everyone for lunch. (Due to flight delays) I was half a day late for our Muhammad Subuh Foundation team building sessions which had been scheduled for the first couple of days of its week long Annual General meeting, which was now underway. I caught up with what had happened during the morning session with MSF that I had missed, and found out that the discussion had centred on what each of us trustees understood by bringing the latihan in our work and how we were putting this into practice.

The team building session had been organised by Bachtiar and Mahmud Nestman who had been invited to lead the sessions.

The AGM proper started the next day and immediately, one could feel that something tangible had happened. A new resolve, and dare I say, love was now felt between all of us. The atmosphere in that first day of our meeting proper was light, with an incredible feeling of generosity and brotherliness. We felt uplifted and were grateful to God and to Bapak. We went through the agenda more smoothly than expected. In due course, we attended the testing for my replacement. We proceeded to be witnesses to the testing of my replacement in front of the directors of the WSA. Michael Heathcoat from the UK was to replace me. I was very pleased for him.

The end of the meeting arrived quite

goodbye



quickly and the good will and feeling which we had all felt at the beginning of the week had continued. It was time to say my goodbyes. Everyone reflected on that week which had been so extraordinary. I felt so close to each and every one of the members of the board that it was difficult to realise that I was no longer part of this wonderful team where each one was so dedicated and was bringing so much to the Foundation.

I have learnt much in these last couple of years; I shall miss Bachtiar for his detailed and meticulous explanations, Olivia for her in depth knowledge of MSF, Hannah for her clarity, Lailani for her attention to details, Lawrence for his kindness, Lillian for her helpfulness and finally Rayner for his humanity and incredible capacity for work.

I thank the international helpers, who accompany MSF with their monthly latihan and Skype meetings,

the national liaisons, and back home, Dorothea Hamida Rogers in particular, as well as all the translators and the many people who have been involved in helping the Subud brotherhood know and understand what this Foundation is and does.

It has been a real privilege for me to work for the Foundation that bears Bapak's name; you will always be in my heart.

## WHERE ARE THEY

# Now?

*The Foundation has been involved with the Subud Group in Mina Clavero since 1996 when they first applied for a loan and grant to create their picturesque Subud House in the mountains of Central Argentina. In 2011 the group requested a new loan to repair the roof.*



*New roof on the Mina Clavero Subud House*

### **The beautiful Mina Clavero Subud House gets a new roof.**

*Macario Conti, Subud Argentina Chair reports:*

After some difficult years, the Subud groups in Argentina are coming together again, becoming a part of the same national group, and doing Latihan together. This new development coincided with a decision by the Mina Clavero group to fix their Latihan hall roof as it had serious filtering problems that led to a general deterioration of the house. The work required completely changing the roof and improving the structure. The Mina Clavero group, with the consensus of Subud Argentina, applied to MSF again, who gave us in 2011 a new loan of US\$13,000.

The roof was recently completed in time for the Subud Argentina 2013 National Congress which took place between 28th and 29th of September. Members from groups in Subud Argentina attended reflecting the renewed harmony between all our Subud brothers and sisters.

# MSEF

22 YEARS SERVING SUBUD



*October marks twenty-two years since the Muhammad Subuh Foundation was established. Since 1996, the Foundation has provided some US\$ 3 million to support a number of Subud projects including more than US\$ 1 million in grants and loans to more than 35 Subud groups around the world for the establishment of Subud houses.*

*“I saw a big building and on its white marble façade were the words: ‘Muhammad Subuh Foundation’. When I entered the building, it seemed to be a formal place like a bank, but instead of money what I saw was a stack of legal documents which turned out to be people’s Wills and Testaments in which Subud members had willed a portion of their assets as bequests to the Brotherhood.”*

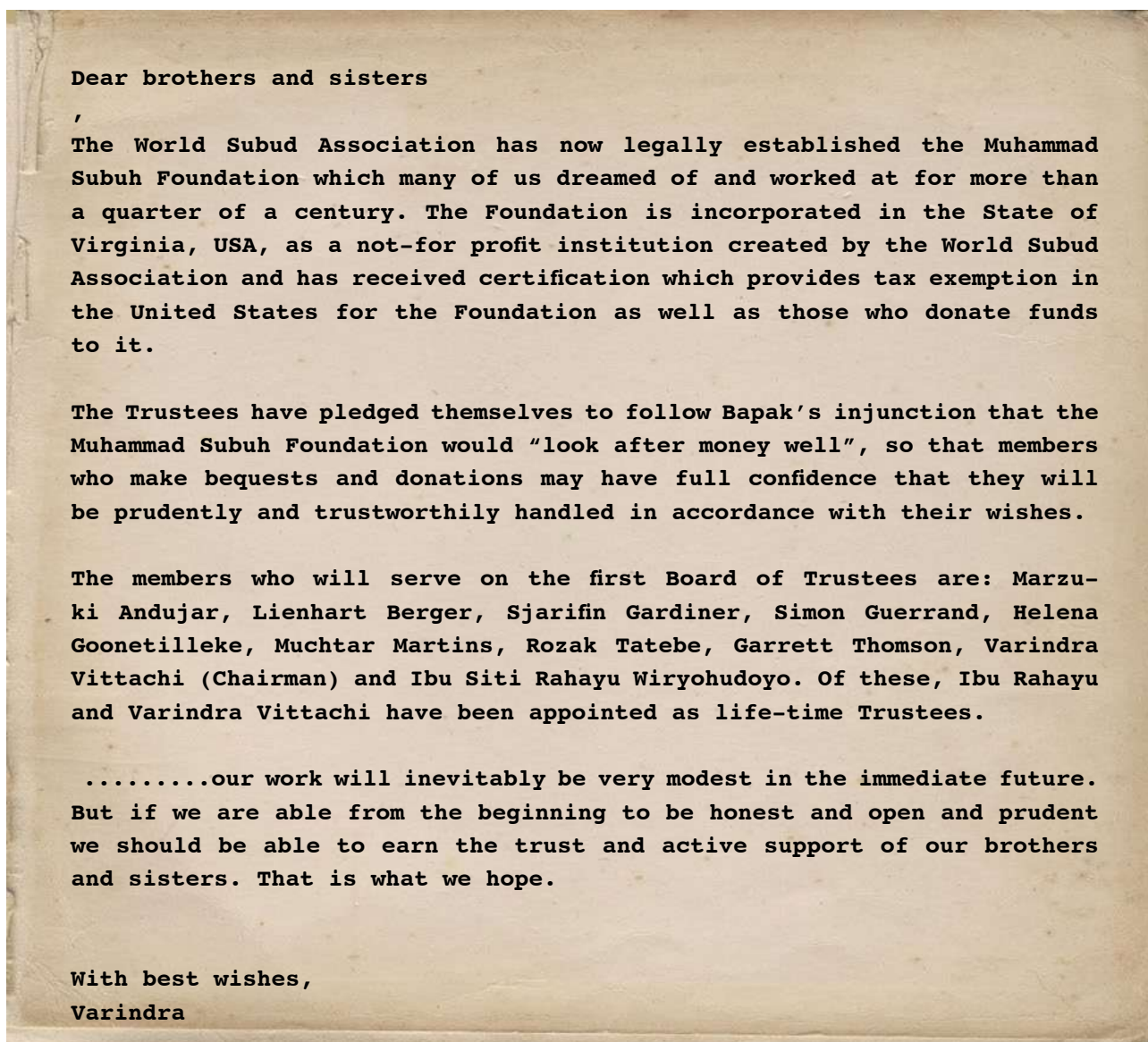
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*Varindra immediately got on a plane to Jakarta to tell Bapak about his experience. Bapak explained:*

**“ Your dream is a true dream. It is right that you start work on establishing such a Foundation to look after bequests of Subud members. But Bapak asks that as long as Bapak is in this world it should not be called Muhammad Subuh Foundation. Better call it Subud Brotherhood International Foundation.”**

In 1991, four years after Bapak’s passing, the World Subud Association established the Muhammad Subuh Foundation to support the long term growth of Subud.

The first meeting of the Foundation was held in 1991 in New York and was chaired by Varindra. Following is an excerpt from his letter to the Subud membership.



**Dear brothers and sisters**

**,**

**The World Subud Association has now legally established the Muhammad Subuh Foundation which many of us dreamed of and worked at for more than a quarter of a century. The Foundation is incorporated in the State of Virginia, USA, as a not-for profit institution created by the World Subud Association and has received certification which provides tax exemption in the United States for the Foundation as well as those who donate funds to it.**

**The Trustees have pledged themselves to follow Bapak’s injunction that the Muhammad Subuh Foundation would “look after money well”, so that members who make bequests and donations may have full confidence that they will be prudently and trustworthily handled in accordance with their wishes.**

**The members who will serve on the first Board of Trustees are: Marzuki Andujar, Lienhart Berger, Sjarifin Gardiner, Simon Guerrand, Helena Goonetilleke, Muchtar Martins, Rozak Tatebe, Garrett Thomson, Varindra Vittachi (Chairman) and Ibu Siti Rahayu Wiryohudoyo. Of these, Ibu Rahayu and Varindra Vittachi have been appointed as life-time Trustees.**

**.....our work will inevitably be very modest in the immediate future. But if we are able from the beginning to be honest and open and prudent we should be able to earn the trust and active support of our brothers and sisters. That is what we hope.**

**With best wishes,**  
**Varindra**

*Varindra was a journalist and senior UN official. He was chair of the World Subud Association for 25 years.*

# DONATIONS & BEQUESTS

*MSF would like to express our sincerest appreciation to all of you who have given to the Foundation to support the long term growth of Subud in the world.*

## Legacy Project

Rashid and Dorothea Rogers  
Lucas Roldán  
Anonymous on behalf of:  
Sahlan and Safiya;  
Mahrus, Nuraini, Elias, Agnès and Emmaline;  
Sofyan, Emmaline and Rozanna;  
Henrietta;  
Steaphan and Veronica;  
Ashadi and Audrey;  
Harlan;  
and Rochana  
Central London Group  
Scottish Region  
Leonard Oliver  
South-East Region, U.K.  
Canterbury Group, U.K.  
Lawrence Leetz  
Mike Groves  
Bapak's Birthday Gathering at Central London Group  
Northern Region, U.K.  
Anonymous  
Miriam Padilla  
Chris Neff

## MSF Donors

Rasmini Gardiner  
John Dixon  
Sharmeema and Mahmud Ganief  
Lusijah Marx  
Helen Munoz Pardo  
Mattieu Ross  
The Estate of Samuel Chapleau  
The Estate of Ilbert Walker

# GRANT APPLICATIONS

The next grant applications deadline is Nov 30.  
Applications are available on our website or from Lillian Shulman, MSF Administrator:  
**[lillianshulman@netscape.net](mailto:lillianshulman@netscape.net)**

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