



## **Susila Dharma Nederland**

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### **I.- GOD'S BLESSING FOR SUSILA DHARMA NEDERLAND**

God's blessing appears in the most unexpected moments. Our minds keep busy looking for solutions, when in fact the pure and simple surrender to Him lies at the heart of the solutions to all problems. Since May 2009 I have been performing my function as Susila Dharma Nederland (SDNL) chair lady, together with a group of Subud members. At December last year most of them decided to leave SDNL for different reasons. The level of communication and the number of projects needed urgently a committee to take responsibility for. However nothing was happening and day by day I started to realize that being alone in SD will not be sustainable in the medium term.

One suggestion was given to me about meeting the National Helpers (NH). The idea was to share with them my feelings and the situation about SDNL, that they could understand and work together with me on a solution; a solution that should come during the next Dutch National Congress. For the first time I met them, in our Subud house in Den Haag, I told them about SDNL, the projects, the committee, my feelings, and how I wanted them to help me. We did Latihan and testing and the result was a surprise: there was absolutely clarity about my capacity as chairlady of SDNL and the benefit for Subud Nederland; however my attitude about to help to solve the current situation was that I needed to be open towards the members and share with them about Susila Dharma, enjoy it and be happy. If I could talk to them, from the inner, people may feel touched and inspired to work in SD. After testing we also talked about potential general testing to be done during the National Congress in May this year. It was a positive meeting where I not only learnt about myself, but also learnt to be closer to the NH and know how much support they can bring to us, especially when we have an active function in Subud.

The National Congress became my main focus; I committed myself to give and to do my best in order to bring the attention of new members towards SDNL. We tested and I prepared a presentation sharing the few achievements during the last year, the current projects we are supporting and the financial figures. But more important was to share the current situation of SDNL, how this will affect the continuation of SDNL and how important was the participation of the members in order to keep this organization alive.

The crucial moment was to talk about my own experience in SD, how I got involved, how I felt inspired and when I started to see the dimension of our work in SD in this world. At that precise moment I understood that my communication with my Subud brothers and sisters in Subud Nederland needed to be built.

After a long weekend and after doing everything I thought was the correct thing to do, I came back home with the hope to be contacted by those who attended the Congress.

God has different ways to show you His majestic and His power, and also to remind you that faith is the last thing you have to lose. On the 20th June, Sunday, dedicated to a memorial Bapak's birthday and death, in the Subud group of Den Haag, the situation of SDNL would change radically. Pamela, one of our national helpers, came to me, after we finish Latihan and told me: " Hello Sabrina! I have a surprise for you!" " There are three ladies that are interested in SD and want to test today about it! Isn't that wonderful?" Silence, I did not react after few seconds " What? Are you sure?" " Yes, there are three ladies who want to test about SD!!!!" " Do you see? This is what is happening when you are open to share!"

I can not tell you how happy I was, but at the same time scared about the result of the test; because testing is God willingness. After lunch, we went to the little room on the first floor, the three ladies: Elmira, Alia and Henriette, and myself together with the NH: Christie and Pamela. We tested about how it will be for them to work in SD and how it will be for SD. It was an amazing receiving for all of us: positive, strong, happiness, love; in fact all the ingredients that SDNL needed in order to be alive.

This experience is for me just an example about faith and surrender to God. These are the key elements at the heart of the solution to any problem we face in life. Working in Subud is a double challenge because we need the balance between the low forces and the spiritual forces.

Today SDNL is composed by 5 new members plus the chair: Elmira Saridin, our treasurer (working at this moment together with Maarten Giel) and project coordinator for Suriname, Alia Setrojojan, our secretary and project coordinator for Children Village and Children sponsorship, Henriette Sillem, project coordinator for ICDP, Hannah de Roo, Subud NL chairlady and project coordinator for YTS, Maarten Udink ten Cate, project coordinator for Anisha and responsible for monitoring of our investment portfolio (working together with Maarten Giel) and myself as SDNL chairlady and project coordinator for Cuba and F. Amanecer Colombia.



New SDNL Committee: Maarten, Alia, Henriette, Elmira, Hannah and Sabrina

It is a new team, full of energy and enthusiasm, looking to learn about SD and from each other. I see this as a very good opportunity to bring SD closer to the members and be able to strengthen our relationship with all projects that SDNL is supporting.

The result of the good development of this new committee has been reflected in our last meeting on Sunday 15th August. We had an audience of 12 people!!! All SDNL board, 3 NH, and three members; one of them (Maarten Udink) is also now part of our committee. The presence of the NH was very much appreciated and it made a big difference, feeling the lightness and balance. The meeting was peaceful and in harmony, we also shared lunch together. I am wondering if this might be an advance gift from Ramadan; may be it is.



Sahlan (NH), Maarten, Alia, Henriette, Elmira, Pamela (NH), Hannah, Sabrina, Maarten Giel, Mark Wessels, Ramon (NH)

New energy, new air and new ideas; We will work together in a plan that brings SD close to you, that we can be closer to all those people who need us. We want also to work as a team with the National Committee; we want to share with you our activities, to let you know what we are doing and what we are planning for the future.

I thank God for His blessing and thank you to all the new board members for their willingness and commitment towards SDNL.

Sabrina Castillo  
Chairlady

## II.- INTRODUCING THE NEW TEAM OF SD NETHERLANDS

**Sabrina Castillo** (group Amsterdam): chairlady SDNL and project coordinator for Latin America. She comes from a Subud family, is almost 15 years in Subud and 8 years active in Susila Dharma. Sabrina originally comes from Chile, has moved to the Netherlands and happily lives and works now for 7 years in Amsterdam. “SD has a lot of meaning in my life; it is more than just work; it is caring for people who have nothing; it is giving, both in material and in spiritual ways. SD is for me the way I can put the latihan into practice. With this new committee I hope we can not only give our caring and loving support to the projects but also share the content of

Susila Dharma with Subud Nederland.”



**Alia Setrojojan** (group Brabant): board member, secretary for SDNL and project coordinator for Children Village and School Sponsorship. She has been in Subud for 8 months. Her main motivation to be in SD is to help other people/ to make a difference. As professional Alia is a librarian and she likes reading and dancing. For the future: “I look forward to work in harmony”.



**Elmira Saridin** (group Brabant): board member, treasurer of SDNL and project coordinator for Suriname; she has been 1 year in Subud; "My main motivation to join this committee is because I care for other human beings. I like to help and support everyone who needs help. I hope I can help in anyway and give the best I can to improve others life. SDNL is a challenge for me to make a first move, my kick-off".

Elmira works at the Customer Support and Billing Records department; as hobby she likes reading, ride cycling, sight seeing, baking. For the future she looks for a full implementation of all projects and goals and be in touch with each other in harmony. "I would like that we are a model to others in everyone's life and support each other in anyway, and to live in peace with each other. Use the latihan in everything".



**Hannah de Roo** (group The Hague) is part of the SDNL-board as chair of the National Committee of Subud Netherlands. Hannah was opened in 1989 and fulfilled several functions for Subud, like managing the literature- and tape centre (now no longer in use) and being a local and national helper. During the past years she was inspired by the many international meetings she attended and she also visited Jakarta and Kalimantan several times. In the new SDNL-team Hannah is intermediate for the YTS project in Kalimantan led by Bardolf Paul; In her own practice Hannah is working as a counsellor and marital therapist. She is mother of three children of 15, 9 and 6 years. About being in SD: "In the future I hope that Subud and certainly Susila Dharma will more and more go

out into the world, to share with many the meaning of Susila Budhi Dharma. It makes me think of the beautiful biblical story about the two breads and the three fish that appeared to be enough to feed a crowd, because they were handed out with love."





**Henriette Sillem** (group Rotterdam), board member and project coordinator for ICDP; 11 years in Subud. “ I was asked for the board , but during the testing about a function in Subud, at the congress in Schoorl, I felt very involved with Susila Dharma. It felt very spacious and I was communicating with the entire world. A lot of streaming energy. Later after selamatan for Bapak in The Hague the test told me I could mean a lot for SD and there is a big space for positive contribution from my part. This was very nice to receive, very powerful. The whole team is glad and excited to be able to work together. My hope for the future of Susila Dharma is that we

**Maarten Udink ten Cate** (group Amsterdam): board member; coordinator for Anisha project and responsible for the monitoring of the investments of SDNL; opened in The Hague, May 1969. His motivation to join SDNL: “after working in the pension insurance industry for more than 40 years until my retirement in March of this year I was looking for something else to do. To my own surprise just a couple of weeks ago I have become interested in charitable work. From all possible options, being a board member of SDNL seems to me the best way to get involved in charitable work right now”. Maarten’s

can offer people support for those who need our help in a spiritual and personal way. Not only with money but most of all with guidance to self-sufficiency. I also would like Susila Dharma to become much more vivid in the minds and hearts of the subudmembers by sharing information about our projects with them. We have already started with a collect for Paramaribo. Their Subudhouse in Suriname suffered from water damage caused by floods. Our contribution will help them to build a new waterproof stone floor. Thank you for your compassion” Henriette is an artist, and she works as a teacher assistant at a school care centre. She works with children from 4 till 12 years old. She also does projects for Villa Zebra, which is an art museum for kids, where she designs workshops for children, which is a very interesting way of teaching the children to express their feelings. In her free time she loves to go horseback riding: “ it’s so nice to spend time with just your horse being in nature. I also like to draw, read, watch movies, listen to music, sing and roller-skate”

hobbies are: travelling to the Philippines (where his wife’s family lives), running, fitness and making music.



### **III – SDNL VISIT TO FAMILY DE ZEEUW, by Elmira**

Our visit to family De Zeeuw, 18 July 2010

We (Sabrina, Alia and Elmira) had the experience of a nice meeting with Lenie and Adriaan de Zeeuw in their home. We enjoyed sitting on their terrace in the garden with typical Surinam drinks like orchade and markousa sirop which was even more delightful because of the sunny and warm weather.

De family De Zeeuw in 2002 has started a legal body, called: ‘Stichting Zorg samen voor Suriname’ (taking care of Suriname together). The purpose of this stichting is the support of groups of people in Surinam living under poor conditions by giving them basic provisions.

In order to meet this goal, the stichting is collecting and sending goods with the help of a small group of people in the Netherlands and Surinam. In the Netherlands they maintain a network of volunteers for the collection of enough goods to realize their mission. Goods come from Educational Institutions and Caring Centres. For the transportation of the containers the stichting is supported by some sponsors, partner organizations and also by organizing yearly benefits for this purpose. SDNL supports this stichting by a yearly contribution for the cost of the containers.

For the future we hope for a good cooperation; it was so nice to learn about how much they are caring for the Surinam people as well as for everyone involved in this project. How it all started and how it is proceeding now. I was touched by the way they do this work with so much love and harmony; how they have carried on all those years; how their love is still growing. It is so nice to hear people getting involved in helping other people, especially now in this society. My compliments go towards them, for their hard work and love and care for others. For the future, if we hear from them how SDNL can support them even more, in any way, as well as the Surinam community and especially our subud brothers and sisters, we will most certainly take this to heart and discuss it in our meetings.

God’s blessings and all of my loving,

Elmira