**5.16.2021 SICA-USA Board Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Paul E Nelson (Chair)and Board Members:Sanderson Morgan; Lauren Stanley and Susannah Rosenthal, as well as National Helper Liaison*:* Michal Brownell. Excused: Hamilton Cheifetz (Past Chair)*,* Ralph Davila (Acting Treasurer), Board Member*:* Lawrence Pevec. Unexcused, National Helper Liaison Jim Dehner.

**Zoom Call to Order.** 4:21pm PDT (after 10 minutes of latihan)

- Paul indicated we have a quorum (4 members present, along with national helper liaison).

- Lauren offered to take notes; fireflies (softward program) is active and taking a full transcription of the meeting discussion.

- Helena Owens recorded meeting minutes at April 18, 2021 meeting. Sanderson moves to approve minutes; Susannah seconds; unanimous approval.

- Ralph not able to make meeting; he provided financial report earlier by email, as well as statement from BECU and Fund drive report. Current checking balance, $5,092.01, savings, $5,192.87. The fund drive has resulted in $6,792.87, and $1,600 was granted Halima Christy and the Holding Out for Love project.

- Paul indicated it is a good practice to not be rushed considering all requests, as happened with Latifah recently with Halima’s project.

- The person Paul had asked to do graphic design for fund drive postcards had done this previously during Menucha, but declined our request.

- Lauren suggested let’s not focus primarily on the 20K amount and instead be ok with adjusting the goal down - “right-sizing” it. Also floated the idea of taking on some kind of mini project that validates who we are and what we do - puts it out there to show what we’re doing with the first round of funds. A discussion of the success of Holding Out for Love and its nature as a specific project and goal ensued.

- Susannah - not clear about where to draw the line of the distinction between individual projects and other kinds of SICA projects.

- Sanderson - like the idea of right-sizing the fund drive goal and thinks the thing to do is to be as visible as possible and continue doing what we’re doing. Find new ways to use the website. This is our “sell” - what we have to look at. Hits on website are up; that’s our product right there.

- Paul looks forward to gathering together as a board at Menucha and taking part in experiential activities, holding a Cultural Conversation workshop to bring out the value of Subud and culture. We have started a cultural conversation but should extend it.

- Susannah described her interest in supporting or participating in different kinds of Quests as happen in SICA and Subud at large - YES, artistic, etc. We could do our own Quest. Could be decided individually.

- Susannah is interested in developing a virtual platform for the Menucha gathering. Poses: how creative can you be virtually? We have to be smarter and continue to think in the future about how to use virtual platforms.

- Paul - Zoom has surely opened up possibilities for engaging and envisions a SICA-USA culture night at Menucha - along with in-person performances, that could have a virtual component.

- Paul referenced Bachrun LoMele’s Burnpile piece. Taking a page from this, as a focus at the gathering we could pose the question What is Subud culture to lots of people and boil it down to concise piece to put on virtually, so anyone can attend online. This would be a good thing to invest in as a showcase. Menucha is scheduled for Nov. 11-14. Paul’s vision is that SICA coordinates Saturday night entertainment as well as hold a workshop.

**- Susannah will reach out to Subud PNW Chair Hadijah O’Bar to pitch about her ideas about an online Menucha component.**

- Susannah - CoPLAY is on the verge of becoming a center in the summer. Latihans will start to be held there in June. It will have a virtual functioning also. Regional gathering also.

- Paul - We’re in need of content for the blog’s Saturday RSS feed next weekend. Sanderson will have more items from Bachrun LoMele. Farrah Karapetian - photographer - does good work, would like to feature her too. <https://www.farrahkarapetian.com/about>

- Paul - We need to not shy away from the difficult discussion of quality in artistic expression. Recounted Bapak story that ended with comment about preferring not to watch people’s purification. Do we want to watch people’s purification?

- Sanderson has an article on this conversation he’d like to work on more to share. We must have words and ways to talk about this.

- Susannah - This is SICA’s job, to help guide the conversation. The goal is to manage this discussion amongst members/people in a nuanced and skilled way. We have to be careful not to pan various forms of artistic expression (“Sunday painters”, etc.). **Susannah and Sanderson are to have an offline conversation exploring this.**

- Susannah - wants to organize an arts creative event at CoPLAY. Feels she still needs to jump over hurdles to make it a real space and welcomes various experiences of others to inform this. Creative Quests. Wants to start asking how to do the USA version of these. Make it a Subud thing, not just SICA thing, and a real world thing. Susannah can conceive and organize a “Midwest Menucha”.

She would be grateful for a side committee of board members to help work on what this would be.

**- Paul said he would entertain a motion to have SICA-USA create an exploratory side committee for CoPlay Midwest Menucha. Susannah so moves. Sanderson seconds. All approved.** Paul will serve on committee.

- Susannah shared her screen to briefly show The Diana Project; more time can be dedicated later to looking at this project and others in future meetings.

- Meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM PDT.

**- Next meeting, Sunday, June 20, 2021, 1:45pm PDT, 2:45 MDT, 3:45 CDT, 4:45 EDT for Latihan, with the meeting starting at 2pm PDT.**

**- Open invite for the CoPLAY/Midwest Menucha committee, MONDAY, June 14, 2021 at 11am PDT/12N MDT/1pm CDT/2pm EDT Chaired by Susannah.**