

General

Unfortunately, this second newsletter of 2019 starts with the sad news of the passing of SRI's matriarch: Judith Huizinga-Eyma on March 8, 2019. She started offering financial support to people on Bali who temporarily needed such help during the late 80s. She lived and worked in kampong Suka Sini in the village of Sidakarya. She has learned a lot there, was able to accomplish much and made many connections between people from the east and west as she herself frequently stated in conversations. When she was not able to travel herself, and when her health worsened, she started Stichting Ruggensteuntje Indonesië (SRI - foundation for small financial support Indonesia) to continue her good works. Many of the SRI sympathizers will remember her. We will remember her, grateful for her friendship and for all that she has done.

This newsletter contains a report of the visit of our two board members to all our projects on Java and Bali during early Spring. Furthermore, you will find a summary of the Indonesia Day in April in The Hague.

Visits on Java

As before, our two board members, Janny and Willemien, started off their trip in Jakarta. After a very spirited meeting with SRI sympathizers in Jakarta, they met with Widya and Gustaaf for the first time. Widya and Gustaaf are the contacts for the little kampong school established by Roanne van Voorst (*please refer to our news letter no. 19 - September 2018 - on details of this school*).

Widya and Gustaaf are inspired people, who are convinced good education provides opportunities and possibilities for even the most underprivileged children. During weekends well educated student volunteers provide high quality education in subjects like English, reading skills, world orientation and arts & craft to children from the kampong Cipete. Unfortunately, the school currently has temporarily seized all activities; the location's rent had become too expensive. Together with Janny and Willemien, Widya and Gustaaf visited another location near the old location. Hopefully, the rental agreement can be signed soon so that the school can commence its' activities again. The children (between 8 and 12 years old) come on Saturday and Sunday from a nearby kampong. Janny and Willemien were impressed with the enthusiasm of these contacts and the learning material that has already been developed.

Janny and Willemien spent a week in Solo. Together with the women of women's cooperation Lidia, they celebrated International Women's day on March 8. Our contact Ratih showed a beautiful Powerpoint presentation regarding the history of this day and women's rights. International Women's day is not commonly celebrated in Indonesia, however, Hari Kartini (Kartini's Day) is widely celebrated in April throughout Indonesia. Kartini was a Sultan's daughter and a strong advocate for women's rights during the early 1900s.

Janny and Willemien shared the history of women's rights in The Netherlands and the fact that we commemorate 100 years of women's voting rights. Some Lidia members performed a beautiful Javanese dance, other sung a great song and there was a poem recitation.

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A tiny shop, Lidia.



The beauty salon, Lidia.

After this celebratory program the annual board meeting commenced including an evaluation of past year's training sessions and plans for the upcoming year. SRI is present at this board meeting as the training sessions are financed by SRI with the help of additional financial donations. All planned training sessions were executed and the attendance varied between 25 (board sessions) and 80 participants. During the board meeting, there was a demonstration of hydroponics which is a method of growing plants without soil by instead using mineral nutrient solutions in a water solvent (ref. Wikipedia) (*see picture*). Hydroponics allows the women to grow their own vegetables indoor and thus promote healthy living within their families.

After this demonstration the board explained the plans for the upcoming year. The program will focus on training sessions for women's empowerment (in daily life as well as in politics), network development, and expanding the cooperation with other groups in the Solo area and on the economical society. There will also be a training session concerning Wise Online, which is extremely important in this digital world. Lidia's number of members has increased to 179. The follow up care for women who joined previous training sessions and have continued their own ventures continues to be important. Janny and Willemien received an extensive report (both hard- and softcopy) of all completed training sessions including pictures.

After a delicious traditional Solo lunch, they visited some of the ventures set up by Lidia members, such as a hair dresser who has a small salon in her house and also does the make up of brides-to-be (*see picture page 1*). A mother and daughter couple that cooks putu ayu on order: little, steamed pandan and coconut cakes (*see picture*). This is laborious process as the steam pot can only accommodate 10-12 cakes and some days orders require hundreds of putu ayu to be produced! From the putu ayu venture to the otak-otak business: otak-otak is stuffed fish (*see picture*). The owner of this home industry venture would clean the fish, remove all the innards, fill the cleaned fish with spices and then steam/ grill the stuffed fish. Another laborious project! Janny and Willemien also visited a woman who supplies all kinds of different kind of krupuk; she distributes the krupuk in smaller portions and sells them. It was an afternoon filled with active women entrepreneurs in the home industry.

Janny and Willemien also met the school children who receive financial support from SRI in Solo. They talked with 13 pupils about their school work, their dreams and their extracurricular activities. In short, this was a nice meeting again during which the children showed their shy happiness because of the fact they are enabled to enjoy good education. For some children this meeting was also a goodbye as they will graduate this summer and start a professional career.

Janny and Willemien also met with the school children in Klaten. Some of them brought selfmade craft work (made of popsicle sticks and bamboo) for Janny and Willemien to take home. This is their way of showing appreciation for the chance of enjoying an education. In Klaten too, we had to say goodbye to some pupils as they will graduate soon and will start to work. One girl, however, will continue to receive support from SRI; solely based on her academic results she has been accepted in the agricultural faculty without being required to do pass an acceptance test. An exceptional feat!



Indoor hydroponic growing of vegetables, Lidia.



Production of green coconut cakes (putu ayu), Lidia.



Otak-Otak (fish), Lidia.

Together with our other contact in Solo, Willemien and Janny went to visit the women of Kembang Wangi in Musuk, in the district of Boyolali on the slopes of the Merapi volcano. Kembang Wangi now consists of five different groups and more desas (villages) would like to join. These networks enable the women to become financially independent, cause economical progress and a decrease in domestic violence! Kembang Wangi has become an example for other districts, so much so that a delegation from Kembang Wangi was invited to the Bupati's (head of a district/ regent) office to present their network experience and their products. Kembang Wangi would like to offer their products on a commercial platform (i.e. market) and for that, they will need to be registered to acquire permission of the local authorities. The complete program of this visit (which was to take place the next day!) was discussed during this meeting in the presence of Janny and Willemien.

Last year, the last training weekend was attended by women from 20 desas (a maximum of 3 women represented each desa). Each group specializes in one product ranging from vegetable fritters, rose petal tea, fried shallots, to herding goats. To be registered by the local authorities and thus to acquire a selling permit a group need to comply with the following requirements: a minimum of 2 years active existence, hold a correct and responsible administration and the products need to be in compliance with local regulations.

The next day Janny and Willemien joined the women during their visit to the office of the Bupati. The women all wore a SRI t-shirt. They were welcomed by the secretary and three managing officers. Our contact explained the reason of the visit and presented the committee with a history of Kembang Wangi and their activities. The other members each then explained the products that they would like to sell. One of the managing officers promised to pay Kembang Wangi a visit and to arrange all required applications. The support from SRI and the presence of SRI's representatives impressed the committee and increased the trustworthy status of this visit. Willemien thanked the committee for their time using Bahasa Indonesia. She added that SRI hopes to see that all applications will hopefully be approved by the time SRI visits Kembang Wangi again next year. The whole meeting lasted for two hours! Janny and Willemien were very proud of these women, who have never attended such a meeting and were able to articulate their opinions well! A job well done! It will be an exciting prospect next year if all will be arranged as discussed during this meeting. We, as SRI members, are very happy to notice that our (financial) support do help people!

Visits on Bali

On Bali, Willemien and Janny first visited Sjaki-Tari-Us, the day care facility for mentally challenged children and teenagers. The new location in Lodtunduh is great and the number of pupils attending has steadily increased. Some days, 60 pupils are present between the age of pre-school to 34 years old! The only thing missing in the current location is the cheap warung (food stand) which was ideally located in the center of Ubud. Currently, the possibilities of setting up such a warung to provide a learning opportunity for the young adults of Sjaki-Tari-Us, get them involved in this commercial process and simultaneously generate additional profits for Sjaki-Tari-Us.



Looking at the shallots production area, Kembang Wangi.



Vegetable fritters, rose petal tea, fried shallots, products of Kembang Wangi.



Visiting the Bupati, Kembang Wangi.



Music and dance hour, Sjaki-Tari-Us.

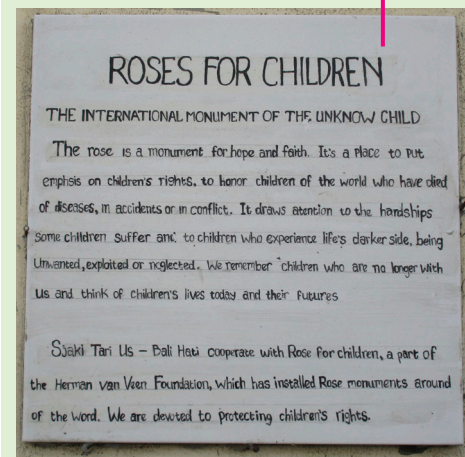
Sjaki-Tari-Us stopped making house calls as these proved to be too time consuming for the teachers and interns. Now, the day care organizes a meeting for the parents twice a month on Saturday. One of the main advantages of these meetings is that the parents get to know each other and learn from each other. Sjaki-Tari-Us is working towards being a totally independent and thus locally supported facility. This takes time and effort, because the facility is not a conservative school and has motives that are different from the standards the Balinese people are used to. The education offered at Sjaki-Tari-Us has already become independent and offer a locally supported. The spirited Dutch manager is still very much needed and will remain in this position.

Willemien and Janny also visited Yogi and Dudyk who set up the drawing program Rare Kemoning. Yogi and Dudyk just became parents again and showed their second son, only a week old. The children continue to attend the drawing program, but they do not just draw - they also use this opportunity to meet up and play with their peers on the terrain behind the home of Yogi and Dudyk. Thus this project continues; children continue to draw, are educated about nature's workings and the importance of protecting their environment. On Bali, plastic bags are no longer distributed and people bring their own bags when shopping or can purchase a brightly colored bag made of recycled material. Plastic straws have also been outlawed and are now replaced by bamboo or paper straws. The local community keeps supporting Rare Kemoning!

Janny and Willemien visited many families in Sanur and its' vicinity to tell them about the passing of Judith or Mam as she was fondly called. The emotions and sadness was greatly felt by all, as many have known Judith personally and were touched by her work and personality. These meetings were not the happiest of this trip, but it was good to be able to tell of her passing so shortly after it happened. Our visit to Yoyon was quite a shock; Yoyon had suffered a brain seizure and was bed ridden. It is still unclear if and how he will recover. It was touching to see how lovingly he was cared for by his oldest son and wife. The other sons have now taking over the responsibilities of their father in the warung.

The owner of the juice stand on the night market, was visited during the day time so that we had the opportunity to talk with him in relative peace. His oldest son now also owns a fruit stall and sells bread along a busy travelled road. His father much rather saw that his son would continue his education as he knows how difficult the life of a street vendor is. As requested by his father, we have tried to discuss the possibilities of further the son's education. He used to have an interest in IT and we have tried to make it clear how important education is in the current society. SRI will continue to follow him and stimulate him to continue his education. From other contacts Willemien and Janny received school reports from the children SRI supports and news on their progress.

In retrospect, this extraordinary trip was filled with special meetings and contacts. We have seen much progress, shared our experiences and our sadness and enjoyed happiness over all the opportunities offered by SRI support. The direct and personal contacts are and will remain precious.



Located on the outer wall of Sjaki-Tari-Us.

Indonesische dag (Indonesian Day)

At the Indonesian day Janny and Willemien were able to show and tell all they have seen and experienced during their trip; their visits with the SRI contacts, the people they have met and their stories. These were illustrated with the pictures that were taken during the trip and the PowerPoint presentation slides. The weather was nice and warm during the Indonesian day and many sympathizers came to visit, to talk and meet up and admire all the wonderful products that Janny and Willemien brought back. SRI also offered snacks for sale; spekkoek (layer cake), pandan cake were a big favourite, as were the lempur (sticky rice rolls stuffed with chicken) and risolles (fried pancakes filled with chicken ragout).

It really was a nice koempoelan (gathering)!

Without the help and assistance of our support group we would not be able to organize this day. For that we would like to thank all involved in making this day a success!

Note 1

Perhaps unnecessarily, we would like to point out again that all travel and boarding expenses of Janny and Willemien during their annual trip to Indonesia are completely covered by Janny and Willemien themselves. This is common practice for them and they have always acted accordingly. Since some people asked questions about these expenses, we thought it best to repeat again that all expenses are covered by Janny and Willemien and are not paid by SRI.

Note 2

We would really like to publish pictures of all the people we meet. However, due to the simple and uncontrollable way of spreading these pictures all over the internet, SRI has come to the agreement that we will not publish pictures in which people can be recognized in our newsletter nor on our website.