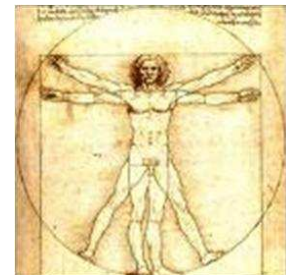
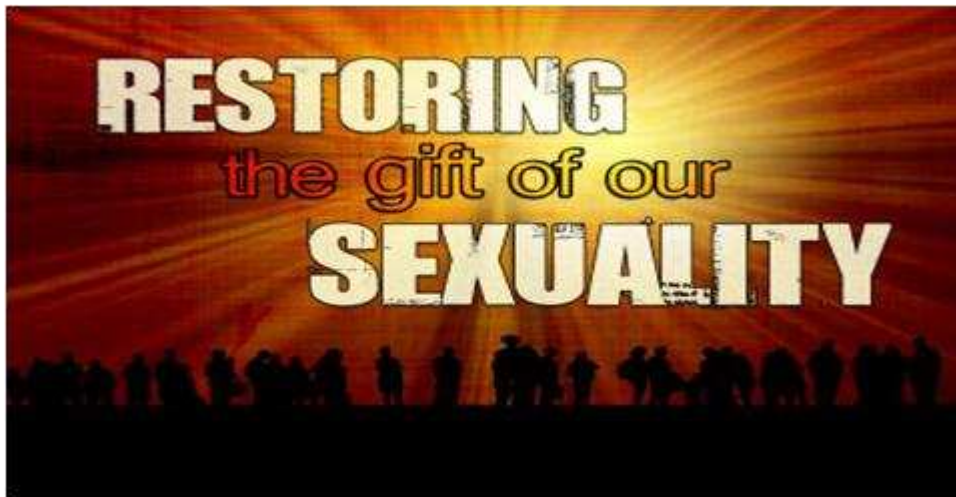


Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



February/2010

Issue: 5



**In This Issue**

Minister Message

New Member Orientation

Minister In Training

Movie Review

Pet of The Month

Monthly Affirmation



**From the Editor...**

*By: Suzanne G Carbon*

In this month devoted to love and passion, I can't help but think of Rumi - a Sufi mystic whose poetry and writings always touch me at a soul level. Rumi's words, humor and unabashed adoration for God fill me with an intense longing to commune with God as he did. Then my inner child stamps its little feet, raise its arms and yells to the sky, "I want to have a passionate love affair with the Divine, too!!!!"

Just when I think all is lost, my soul quietly reminds me I DO have that kind of relationship with God. It chides me that I am day dreaming again - and gently shakes me from my slumber. I say aloud "Oh God I forgot again?!"

Then I laugh at my foolishness while thanking the Universe for the wake-up call. I can't help but think that somewhere Rumi is laughing with me while nodding his head in approval.

**THE AWAKENING**



**Pet of the Month**

~ Rumi~

In the early dawn of happiness you gave me three kisses  
so that I would wake up to this moment of love  
I tried to remember in my heart what I'd dreamt about  
during the night before I became aware  
of this moving of life.

I found my dreams but the moon took me away  
It lifted me up to the firmament and suspended me there  
I saw how my heart had fallen on your path  
singing a song between my love and my heart  
things were happening which  
s-l-o-w-l-y  
s-l-o-w-l-y  
made me recall everything.

You amuse me with your touch although I can't see your hands.  
You have kissed me with tenderness although I haven't seen your lips  
You are hidden from me, but it is YOU who keeps me alive  
Perhaps the time will come when you will tire of kisses  
I shall be happy even for insults from you  
I only ask that you keep some attention on me.

## Minister Message

Hello Everybody,

Happy February, happy middle of winter, happy Valentine's day. I was away for three weeks traveling the west coast promoting my conference, Liberation 2010. It was everything ... amazing, hard, exhilarating, exhausting, enriching, deep, real ... and freezing cold! Yes, I was so excited to get out of the Chicago winter and into the California sun but I landed in California rain and cold! If ever there should be permission to say, "In the infinite awareness of it's all good, THIS is not good!" it should be able to be applied to weather.

This month at Bodhi we are focusing on sacred sexuality. We're not simply talking about the act of sex but the sacredness of being sexual, sensual and spiritual all in one. One of my goals for this month is that we really cleanse our minds, bodies and emotions of any and all fear, guilt and shame and that we dive into deep, joyous curiosity. As children it was so easy to be curious but most of us were taught to be polite and quiet, not obnoxious and ridiculously interested (which is really what we were).

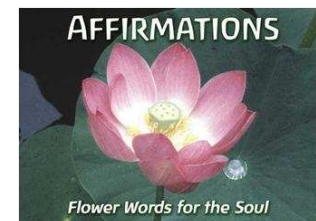
When I was a child I learned that sex and God were separate. I learned this, not by ever being told this by an adult or authority - I learned this because it was never, ever, ever talked about. It was never included in one prayer, one conversation or one Sunday church experience. It was absolutely and completely omitted. Omission is a powerful messenger, isn't it? And, omission leaves room for young creative minds to fill in the blanks, which is what I did. I was raised Catholic. So, within the context of that Christian religion, I assumed Jesus never had sex. I assumed his Mother probably had sex AFTER he was born, but certainly not before, the holy virgin that she was. I assumed that sex caused all kinds of problems since Leviticus has many laws about how to, when to and who to. I assumed that someone,



Chris Huston's "Sally"

GOD Quality  
Sally Expresses  
**COMPASSION**

## Monthly Affirmation



FOR THE SECOND OR  
SACRAL CHAKRA

I accept and  
acknowledge my  
sexuality.

My physical health is  
strong and pure.  
I deserve pleasure  
in my life.

Creativity flows in  
and through me.

I absorb information  
from my feelings.  
Life is pleasurable.  
I love my body and  
trust its wisdom.



Check us out online via  
our Website, Facebook

somewhere on this planet must be attracted to animals, since the Bible says you can't have sex with them. And, I assumed that the only way it was acceptable to have sexual feelings was if they were for women .... damn, I was really in trouble!

Somehow most of us make it out of all of these assumptions, fears and uncertainties and stumble into some semblance of an adult sex life, and hopefully have a lot of fun in it, but God gets left out of the mix. I think that's not good.

I have this idea that if God were in the mix that we would experience greater joy, fulfillment, responsibility, ecstasy. I also think we would be much, much better at giving and receiving in every area of our lives. I believe there would be much less sexual violence and our children would learn to love and appreciate their bodies and take responsibility for their own enjoyment of them. Oh, if God were in the mix I can only begin to imagine how amazing people would feel about themselves and to really appreciate how perfectly our bodies are wired for pleasure and ease.

I believe that if we brought our sexuality and spirituality together our worship would be more dynamic and experiential. Our prayer lives would be sensual and more fabulous. Oh, the list goes on and on ...

This topic is important. It's now and it's ours! I'm so grateful we're having it together. See you at Bodhi ... you sexy thing!

Love,

Mark Anthony Lord



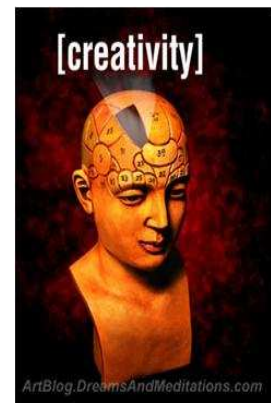
## A Message from Our Minister in Training!



Dear Bodhi Community,

I am so honored, humbled and excited to be working here full time as an assistant minister in training at Bodhi! It is my pleasure to continue to serve this community on yet a deeper level, in time, spirit and love. This community has been my home since it opened its doors six years ago and it makes my heart sing to be here. I look forward to supporting Bodhi in any and every way possible, but the areas where I have been

and Twitter!



immediately called really excite me - youth & family and education. As Whitney Houston sang years ago "I believe the children are our future, teach them well and let them lead the way..." that is the vision I hold for our youth program as it continues to grow and expand. I see a Sunday morning youth program and a teen group program that empowers and awakens in our youth that inherent wisdom that allows them to walk through life in love, joy, creativity & exuberance. However, I don't only hold this vision for your youth, but for our entire education program, that regardless of whether we are 6 or 60, we have powerful classes, workshops, retreats and other programs that bolsters not only the individuals in this community, but ultimately serve the greater Chicagoland area.

I am quite humbled to be working in this position while I am still in the midst of ministerial training. It truly is an honor to step into this opportunity. What is absolutely perfect is the synergy of this moment. I immediately have a real life community in which to apply the ideas, theories and philosophies that I am studying and I get to bring to the community the current edge of New Thought philosophy and practice from the Holmes Institute.

I truly relish this moment and am grateful for all of the support and excitement I have received from everyone!

Love, Light & Laughter!  
Darrell

## Movie Review - Avatar

*By Perry Lammers*



James Cameron's Avatar, a shoe-in for an Academy Award, is a great movie for the Bodhi community to see.

The vision of the grandeur of the fictionalized planet of Pandora, the panoramic sweep of the garden paradise created wholly thru computer generated imagery, is nothing short of breathtaking. The outsized flora and fauna in the endless emerald forest and "floating mountain" uplands plus the nine-foot-tall gorgeous blue aliens who inhabit this domain 200 years into the future eminently compliment the story's plotline of a humble hero on an epic mission who at journey's end takes his place amongst the gods. Only thru CGI technology could an Olympian setting, formerly the preserve of the oral storytelling tradition, get made to match a tale of such pretension - the stuff of mythological lore. I felt like a child again, fascinated to be making a new discovery. Thru my 3-D glasses the scenery was like coming across a pure, unadulterated place for the first time. The otherworldly landscape and its blue citizens called the Na'vi put me in touch with the sense of innocence again.

What should sound familiar to Bodhi-goers is the Na'vi's belief system. Eywa, their god, is a force present in all matter in the universe - a concept Cameron borrows from the Hindu religion. These denizens of the forest have a profound respect for and a deep connection to Mother Nature and take responsibility for their actions with regard to their relationship with her. Earthlings, who arrive to conquer Pandora and exploit its mineral resources, do not.

The film's protagonist, a low-ranking soldier in the arriving army, volunteers

for a mission where via science of the day his intellect gets injected into the body of a Na'vi whose job is to go amongst the indigenous population and bring its downfall. Something happens, however, along the way. He begins learning about biodiversity, then falls in love and finally starts believing in his mysticism. When thru his bravery he tames Taruk, the baddest dragon on the planet which only five legendary figures in the history of the Na'vi race have ever done, they elevate him to deity-status. He goes from ordinary grunt to finding his "god" power - a rather Science of Mind thing to do. His journey is one from skepticism to enlightenment. Ernest Holmes would applaud his growth and the transformation.

Cameron's unabashed environmentalism and anti-militarism should resonate well within the hallways of the Zen Den. What some of us probably will take exception with is the Na'vi taking up arms against their human oppressors. Violence is no way to resolve conflict; our way is MLK, not Malcolm X.

Despite some ham-handed moments in the script like when the Na'vi steal a helicopter and deck it out with war paint or when the big battle scene hinges on a totally incredulous turn of events, Avatar for me achieves greatness. Its brilliant elements - awe-inspiring visual effects and a central message advocating spiritual enlightenment - make it a film for the ages.

# Membership Orientation

Thinking about becoming a member & making Bodhi your spiritual home?

**Join us for this orientation where you will:**

- Discover the vision for Bodhi
- Learn what we teach and believe
- How we came to be
- Where we are going
- How YOU can take part

**Saturday, February 20, 2010  
10a - 3p in the Connection Cafe**

**FREE**  
Facilitated by the Membership Ministry  
Lunch Included  
Pre-registration Required

You can register today at the Membership Table  
which is located in the Zen Den

## Bodhi Testimonials



Has the Bodhi Spiritual Center and it's teachings transformed you? Did a class, a sermon a practice, another member or even the music on a given Sunday shake your foundation to the core for the better?

If so, we'd like to raise and praise your evolvment publicly with the community! Your story may be the seed that transforms

somebody's else life - be a testament to how the power of changing your thinking changed your life!

Please [email us](#) and write "**Member Testimony**" in the subject line. Thanks!!

## Member Manifestations

Are you a mighty manifester or do you know someone in the community who is?

If so, we'd like to share these successes with the community!

Please [email us](#) and write "**Member Manifestation**" in the subject line. Thanks!!



Have questions about a particular ministry or interested in volunteering for a team? Contact these community leaders to find out more --

**Animal Ministry:** Donna Ruby, Karen Gerbig - [animalministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:animalministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Bookstore:** [bookstore@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:bookstore@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Connection Café:** Art Franke, Cindy Stowell [connectioncafe@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:connectioncafe@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Education Ministry:** [education@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:education@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Green Ministry:** Jon-David - [greenministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:greenministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Healing Ministry:** Kate Miller - [healingministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:healingministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**HUG:** Patrick Ziegler, Shakti Bracilano - [hugteam@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:hugteam@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**LGBT Ministry:** Dennis Shanahan, Richard Friend - [lgbtministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:lgbtministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Newsletter:** Suzanne G. Carbon - [editor@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:editor@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Office:** Mark Bonham - [office@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:office@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Practitioner Core:** Joan Coletto, Gina Alicea, Sue O'Halloran - [praccore@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:praccore@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Production Crew:** Shawn Quaid - [productionteam@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:productionteam@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Prosperity Consciousness Ministry:** Mollie Dowling, Lettie Sullivan - [pcm@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:pcm@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Sangha Central:** Cheri Coons - [sanghacentral@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:sanghacentral@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Hearts and Hands:** Editha Paras [heartsandhands@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:heartsandhands@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

**Uth Ministry Director:** Maureen Muldoon, **Assistant:** Megan Rische: [uthministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:uthministry@bodhispiritualcenter.org)

For information on Upcoming Events/Classes check us out online at

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

To submit questions, pet pictures, manifestation stories, member interview suggestions, or to share your gifts with the newsseller, drop us a line at [editor@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:editor@bodhispiritualcenter.org). The team at the BodiBuzz looks forward to hearing from you!

**[Forward email](#)**

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to [marsha@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:marsha@bodhispiritualcenter.org) by [markbonham@bodhispiritualcenter.org](mailto:markbonham@bodhispiritualcenter.org).

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Bodhi Spiritual Center | 2524 N. Lincoln Ave. | Suite 218 | Chicago | IL | 60614