

December 2009

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Message from our new Executive Director, Michael Conn

These are exciting times at IBE. In conversations with IBE principals, staff, and volunteers, I've encountered nothing less than enthusiasm, commitment, and a genuine willingness to share and explore fresh ideas. Over 300 new visitors a week have signed onto our website, our membership and student enrollment are growing, and subscriptions to our Newsletter have increased by twenty percent over the past sixty days alone. New concepts that were in early development at IBE have merged with my own, and dynamic changes are gliding into place. Our new Home Page, our new Membership page, and our all new feature, our Members Only page, were launched online this past weekend, while revisions to subsequent pages are moving forward even as I write this.

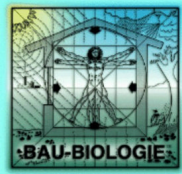
Visitors to our site are now met with a learning center experience, given cost-free access to basic courses and videos, expert advice on such topics as the seven easiest ways they can protect their family from the adverse effects of their built environment, and a weekly poll question, tallying opinions about risks the built environment poses to their health and wellbeing. Coming soon is an interactive Google map where they'll find a certified BBEC near their home, and with one click read a BBEC's credentials and contact info.

The IBE Membership is now The Healthy Home & Workplace Coalition, and our all new benefits accrue automatically to all

currently active IBE members. Our Members Only page includes a private file where members can view their membership and academic history with IBE; a Sneak Previews column, where you'll be the first to hear about new IBE curriculum and programs in development (like our new course for young moms, IBE 110.1) and offer your feedback; a Member-to-Member Exchange (a blog of our own); a From The Experts column, with links to key emerging issues about the built environment; and members-only discounts on products and conferences, as well as ten percent off on your membership dues when you renew or upgrade your membership before it expires. And coming soon is a Research Corner, with links to whitepapers and opinion pieces by our Scientific Advisory Board.

There's more coming, too. Check our website often for expanded member benefits and breaking announcements, such as plans for our 2010 Conference in September, and the launch of our aggressive social media campaign. You'll soon find our voice not only on FaceBook, MySpace, and Twitter, but on mom and family-centric blogs at sites such as CafeMom, Care2, and Healthy Child Healthy World. So keep you membership active, renew or join today, The Healthy Home & Workplace Coalition needs you! And don't forget, IBE is now on TV, Healthy Home Television, Channel 55.

I am deeply grateful to our members, students, and alumni. And together with IBE's staff, volunteers, and board of directors, I wish you the happiest and most blessed of holidays and a meaningful, fulfilling New Year.



With your help we can all live in a healthier built environment. Join for 2010.

Become an IBE Member

- Basic member \$45
- Advanced Member \$100
- Lifetime Member \$1000

Sign up today on our membership page to start making a genuine sustainable difference.

Become a Member Page

[IBE Membership](#)

Calendar of Events

Ongoing:

SPPI Managing Environmental Illness Research Project. To read more about the study and get involved -- [click here](#) (pdf document)

SPPI

The Science and Public Policy Institute

IBE 213:

IBE 213 -- [Natural Healthy Building](#)

**DATE CHANGED TO:
Feb 15 - 19, 2010**

Location: [The Frontier Project](#)
10440 Ashford Street, Building D,
Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Inside Scoop: IBE Behind the Scenes

There are many exciting changes happening at the International Institute for Bau-Biologie & Ecology and many new projects have been launched.

* Alex gave an informative report with regards to IBE's success at the **West Coast Green Conference** in San Francisco in October. IBE conducted a pre-conference seminar and Body

Voltage display. We were able to educate hundreds during the conference.

* The [Building Biology Healthy Home Standards](#) (go to the link and see the latest updates) was launched on the IBE website for public comment.

* National Healthy Home (Philadelphia, PA) half-day workshop and presentation on the Bau-Biologie way to assess a healthy home.

* Extensive effort to spread the Building Biology philosophy in Southern California and forged alliances with like-minded organizations.

* IBE completed a several month extensive interview process to select the new Executive Director for the Institute. Again, special thanks to the interview team.

* Dr. Mercola launched the new [EMR Forum](#) on [www.mercola.com](#).

* IBE on TV was launched at [www.ibeontv.com](#).

Many insightful and progressive ideas proposed by the new Executive Director will be put in to place in the coming months.

Visit IBE Program Director, Vicki Warren, on [Dr. Mercola's EMF site](#):



Electromagnetic Fields
EMF Information for Your
Personal Safety

Visit IBE on web TV:
[www.ibeontv.com](#)

View and learn from Larry Gust, President of IBE Board of Directors; Lisa and Ron Beres, from GreenNest; Jeanne McLaughlin with Cleaning with Vodka; Mike Weston IAQ instructor; Vicki Warren, IBE Past Executive Director; Paula Baker-Laport with EcoNest and many more.

This innovative web TV "station" is being used by many interested people for learning the basic information needed to begin creating their own healthy home and workplaces.

Volunteers Needed:

IBE WEBMASTER:

We're looking for a new Webmaster (PHP expertise required). Fees for our online courses will be waived and free membership granted in return for your work. Please contact Michael Conn, at: mconn@buildingbiology.net

REVIEWERS FOR IBE COURSE MATERIAL:

We're looking for people interested in reviewing course material currently in development.

Please contact Program Director, Vicki Warren: vwarren@buildingbiology.net

Do you have an article you would like to submit for a future issue? Please submit articles to outreach@buildingbiology.net

The Birth of a Dream

by Melody Chan Graves

In September, my husband and I attended a builder training seminar in Santa Fe with the EcoNest Company. Robert LaPorte opened our eyes to a whole new way of experiencing natural building, sweeping us up and infecting us with his passion for his craft.

During the course of five days, a small crew of ten moved and packed ten thousand pounds of clay/straw into the walls of a man's home. The atmosphere was electric. Each person was a volunteer brought by some internal homing beacon to this place to learn, grow, strive, and achieve something greater than himself.

On the last day, when I stood inside the building and beheld what human hands had created, allowing me to take part in this sacred act of creation, I was awestruck. I basked in the warm play of light across the rolling hills of piñon trees and knew I was experiencing something special.

This project signaled the birth of a dream. I began to see a need, and a way to fill it.

As a person who fought and won against a debilitating illness called fibromyalgia, I know what it's like to feel emotionally shipwrecked and abandoned. To have the hope of living a normal, productive life snuffed out by those who cannot see beyond the confines of their limited knowledge of the human body or the narrow-minded stronghold of "tradition."

There has to be another way, I said to myself over and over as I ran the gamut of doctors and was "fired" by several of them. No one believed I would get well. They told me I belonged in a wheelchair. This was not an acceptable answer. I had

a vision of myself healthy and whole, and I would not relinquish it.

Today, I am a vibrant, active person. I made my dream come true by holding fast to a vision. For many people who suffer from multiple chemical sensitivity or electrical sensitivity, the idea of safe, health-affirming housing is a wonderful, but impossible dream.

I believe there is a way to fill this pressing need: to build a healthy living sanctuary for those who don't have anywhere else to go. A safe haven for those whose daily environment has become a toxic war zone that brings illness, pain, and hopelessness.

Yes, it will take work. Yes, it will take money. It will take re-education, re-invention, persistence and a whole lot of faith. But an impossible challenge didn't stop me before. Another won't stop me now. You see, I am more than an advocate. I am a revolutionary armed with the power of an idea.

Melody Chan Graves is a literary writer who recovered from a debilitating case of fibromyalgia with the help of naturopathy, fascial integrative therapy, and Building Biology.

Find her at www.ecodynamicliving.com and www.melodychangraves.com.



Readers Corner:

Suggested Websites:

www.ibeontv.com

www.mercola.com

Suggested Book:

Your Home, Your Health, and Well-Being

by David Rousseau

Hypersensitivity to modern-day home pollution, now diagnosed as environmental illness, is receiving much attention. For concerned citizens, especially those suffering from this malady, here is a guide to building or renovating a house to provide a "clean" environment. The book considers site selection, building materials, furnishings, cleaning products, and even landscaping. Intended primarily for designers, architects, and builders, it goes beyond Debra Lynn Dadd's Nontoxic Home (LJ 11/1/86), which is more oriented to residents. Public libraries owning both books will have this topic well covered.

Sondra Brunhumer, Western Michigan Univ. Libs., Kalamazoo

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Suggested Conference:

[IBE 213 - Natural, Healthy Building](#)

Southern California

February 15 -19, 2010

For more information on
Building Biology
and
**The International Institute for
Bau-Biologie & Ecology**
please visit our website
<http://www.buildingbiology.net/>