



William Blake Lodge Newsletter

“Promulgating Thelema Starting with You!”

www.williamblakeoto.org

Volume 2 September 2008
Summer Solstice – Autumnal Equinox

A MESSAGE FROM THE LODGEMASTER

– Fr. Freeshadow

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

The process of moving out of the Providence Odd Fellows Hall and into our new home at the Cambridge Building has been a strange journey, a journey we will be undergoing for several more months before we can truly say that we have settled into the space and made it ours. The process of making it ours has been labor intensive with hefting building materials and employing expert carpentry skills. We have made headway, but there is still more work to do.

Currently, our Mass Temple is outfitted adequately, but still needs updated equipment to fit the space. We will be installing permanent veil systems for the altar, tomb and entrance. We will be augmenting the benches to be cushioned and adding a sitting area near the door for socializing. We will also be improving the high altar & super-altar. Work on the meeting room has made a staggered progress; and the plans for a kitchenette and bathroom are still in the planning stages. I hope that more members will join in the build out in the coming weeks to prepare the temple for Mass-a-thon in December 2008.

The current cost to rent our new home is \$550 per month (but this will increase each year), or 22 dues-paying members. I highly encourage the non-current membership to return to dues-current status and not to lapse into inactivity; moreover, I hearten the inactive to return from the somnolence. The prosperity of William Blake Lodge is (and has always been) solely dependent on the diligence and care of its active members.

Looking ahead to 2009, we plan to hold a proper temple dedication ceremony and celebration once the build out is completed. The turn of the year will also bring week night classes held at the Lodge, and there are presently plans for a series utilizing the teaching skills of Br. Richard Kaczynski (Tau Zalmoxis). Our outreach program is stabilizing with regular Lodge presence now on MySpace, LiveJournal, Facebook, Witchvox, and the Open Hearth Foundation calendar of events. We have initiation applications for Minerval, Second Degree and Fourth Degree which will be scheduled as soon as they are feasible in the new space.

I look forward to the continued support of the membership in strengthening this community filled with Life, Love, Liberty and Light, and a Lodge that provides to its members instruction, initiation, fraternity and joy.

Love is the law, love under will.

In the Bonds of the Order,
Chrstphr Srprs
Master
William Blake Lodge
Ordo Templi Orientis





Mass-a-thon Makes Its Triumphant Return to the East Coast December 5 - 7, 2008

In November 2006, O.T.O. members traveled from around the region for the William Blake Oasis Mass-a-thon. Inspired by the same event held by Blue Horizon Oasis in California, members came from as far north as Maine and as far south as Puerto Rico to attend the program of 11 Masses, food and fraternity. The schedule boasted some themed Masses like a IIIrd Mass, a Champagne Mass and a Midnight Masquerade Mass. Fr. Freedshadow of William Blake Lodge and Fr. J.L. of Knights Templar Oasis are honored with the distinction of being the only two people to attend all 11 Masses. Since the event was such a great success, the Body decided to repeat Mass-a-thon in off-NOTOCON years.

Images from 2006 Mass-a-thon



This year's event will be held William Blake Lodge's temple in Baltimore. A schedule of 12 Masses goes from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. The cost for the Mass-a-thon covers snacks, beverages, brunch both days and lots of wine. Get Bahlasti-ed at the Baphomet Bar offering specialty cocktails such as *The Great White Chocolate Brotherhood* Martini and *The Khabs Is in the Kaluha* Martini. See the calendar for pricing.

Interested in participating in Mass-a-thon? Active novice and ordained members of O.T.O. may participate as clergy in the priest, priestess or deacon roles. Active EGC members who are both baptized and confirmed may participate in the roles of positive or negative child. Mass teams should provide their own robes, weapons and cakes of light. The Lodge will provide wine for all Masses and also has house robes and weapons available for all 5 officers (although you are strongly encouraged to provide your own). Limited crash space is available with local Brethren. Please contact the Lodgemaster to get on the schedule for an available Mass. There will not be time for walk-throughs.

Masses taken thus far are: Friday, December 5, 9:30 pm, Sunday, 1:30 pm

Sacraments of both baptism and confirmation will be available at the Lodge prior to the Mass-a-thon in November. Please contact the Lodgemaster for details.

New Bishop Brings Sovereignty to East Coast An Interview with Tau Zalmoxis

He sits before me with long hair cascading down his shoulders and a mischievous glint in his blue eyes amidst a backdrop of volumes and volumes of occult books crammed into a cluttered basement office. A wealth of history and hours of research into antecedents of the O.T.O. fill the room. Richard Kaczynski, author of *Perdurbo: The Life of Aleister Crowley* and the newly made *Tau Zalmoxis*, brings the authority of Sabazius X^o of United States Grand Lodge to the O.T.O. community throughout his travels in his role as Sovereign Grand Inspector General and Bishop of the Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica.





HYPATIA: How would you describe the initiation?

ZALMOXIS: Inspiring, yet humbling.

HYPATIA: What does the name "Tau Zalmoxis" mean?

ZALMOXIS: Contrary to popular belief, it is neither an exotic disease, generic drug, nor a distant relative of Xenu. "Zalmoxis" is the name of a Thracian deity associated with vegetative figures like Adonis, Bacchus, Dionysus, Zagreus, Attis and Sabazius. Given that, as an S.G.I.G., I am a representative of the Supreme and Holy King Sabazius, the motto Zalmoxis seemed appropriate. I was further intrigued to discover that Ζαλμοξις, in Greek gematria, equals 418.

Digging a little deeper, I discovered that Zalmoxis founded a thaumaturgic initiatory cult; not one of the original Olympians, he symbolized the beginning of a new eschatological epoch, or, in our parlance, "New Aeon"; a student of Pythagoras, he practiced and taught vegetarianism; and he is associated with gods of music and ecstatic shamanism, like Orpheus and Musaeus. A New Aeon magician, initiator, musician and vegetarian whose name equals 418. The more I read, the more it just fit the bill.

Add to that the fact that, when I discovered the name, I wasn't really looking for a magical motto. I was doing some research for the Order and just stumbled across it. That made it feel all the more like kismet...or the hand of the Secret Chiefs poking at me.

HYPATIA: What does the title "Tau" refer to?

ZALMOXIS: It's a tradition to prefix one's Episcopal name with the Greek letter Tau. It goes back to Jules Doinel, who started the Gnostic revival in France in 1890. He was known as "Tau Valentin II," and some of his top people were known as Tau Jean II (Jean Bricaud) and Tau Vincent (Gérard Encausse). This tradition continues in E.G.C. today.

HYPATIA: What are your goals as a Sovereign Grand Inspector General (S.G.I.G.) and a Bishop?

ZALMOXIS: As a VII°, my job description includes being a chartered initiator for the degrees IV° through KRE, Bishop of E.G.C. (which authorizes me to ordain priests and priestesses of E.G.C.), and inspector of rites to ensure bodies' fidelity to performance standards for O.T.O.'s ceremonies. In addition, according to "Liber 194," in my travels I report "to the Supreme and Most Holy King as to the condition of all Lodges and Chapters; to the Supreme Council on all affairs of the Second Triad; and to the Electoral College on those of the Third." Finally, I travel to other Valleys, as needed, to investigate and mediate problems that have come to the Order's attention.

I'm hoping that my advancement opens up new opportunities for the Order as a whole, particularly in the region. For William Blake Lodge, it means we can initiate up to the K.R.E. degree (a pendant degree to the V°) without importing an initiator or sending our people to another state. This makes it easier not only for our members, but also for our more distant S.G.I.G.s.

It also means that our E.G.C. novices can work directly with a bishop, either as their supervising bishop or in coordination with their S.B. Now that William Blake Lodge has a beautiful E.G.C. space, I'd love to see more people become involved as *participants* in the Mass. It's really a great opportunity to do regular magical work, as well as to serve our community.

Finally, it brings us one step closer to being able to start a Chapter of Rose Croix. All of these things would be wonderful growth for O.T.O. in this part of the country.

HYPATIA: What direction do you see the O.T.O. headed in?

ZALMOXIS: This is a time of exciting growth for O.T.O. I see signs of maturation happening everywhere. U.S. Grand Lodge is over ten years old, and in the past few years O.T.O. has added Grand Lodges in the U.K. and Australia, too. As different aspects of the USGL Strategic Plan are implemented, it will bring the Order in America more in line with the vision that Theodor Reuss and Aleister Crowley had for O.T.O. For instance, USGL recently held its first meeting of the full Senate during the recent Convocation in L.A. This growth is especially visible in the eastern half of the country, where the Thelemic community has been traditionally more spread out than in the west. William Blake Lodge has moved into a 24/7 space near the





Inner Harbor, and the possibilities that opens up are just breathtaking. When the build-out is done, the space will be beautiful for much more than Mass and initiations. We can have rituals, classes or discussion groups on weeknights. We can interface with spiritual, artistic, scholarly or other subcommunities in the area. If we wanted, we could even have art showings, film festivals, guest speakers or open mic nights. Pretty much anything we can imagine.

Beyond our region, we've seen Thelesis in Philadelphia promoted to lodge status. Tahuti Lodge in New York City has successfully maintained independent space in one of the most expensive real estate settings in the world. Knights Templar (Salem, MA) and Abrahadabra (Portland, ME) Oases both have independent space. Several bodies in the midwest are working on either owning or moving into independent space. And USGL has a committee looking into the practicalities of running a Profess House. Of course, none of this would work without a community to support it, which is clear based on this success, the initiations taking place, and the events that are being held. In the past few years on the east coast, we've hosted two NOTOCOns (WBL in 2005 and KTO in 2007), several certified initiator trainings and E.G.C. seminars, pastoral counseling, a bereavement seminar, and Kaaba Colloquium. The Electoral College will be meeting in New York this October, and this spring we've got Advanced Initiator Training taking place in Salem. We have arrived!

HYPATIA: If you could meet any historical figure in the occult community, who would it be and why?

ZALMOXIS: Wow, that's tough. Rather than go with the obvious answer—after all, Aleister Crowley left us copious notes on his life and work—I'd have to go with either Carl Kellner or Hargrave Jennings. My answer has everything to do with the fact that I'm doing research for a book on the history of secret societies in the 19th and early 20th centuries, particularly on the pre-history of O.T.O. Both Kellner and Jennings have so much to do with this history, yet very little is known about either of them.

Or maybe John Yarker, because he had his fingers in *everything*.

Can't I just conjure all all three of them into a room and meet them at the same time?

HYPATIA: Tell me about *The Weiser Concise Guide to Aleister Crowley*. When is it coming out?

ZALMOXIS: *The Weiser Concise Guide to Aleister Crowley* is part of a series of affordable introductory books that Weiser has been putting out on esoteric topics like alchemy, yoga, astrology and herbalism under the editorship of Brother Jim Wasserman. This one gives an overview of Aleister Crowley in 128 pages...which is quite a tall order! The first half of the book gives an overview of Crowley's life and works, as well as O.T.O., E.G.C. and A.:A.:. The second half is more practical, starting with basic magical exercises and going into intermediate and advanced topics like Great Magical Retirements, Knowledge and Conversation of the Holy Guardian Angel, and sex magick. While it's an introductory book, Bro. W. and I included enough tidbits to keep it interesting and fresh for people who are already familiar with Thelema. It should be out late winter or early spring of 2009.



Building Fund Update

Excellent news! The total in the William Blake Lodge Building Fund is presently \$13,690.40. We have met over 27% of a \$50,000.00 goal to buy a building for the Lodge. We are hoping the 2009 Winter Luau Party can bring us up to the 33% mark of \$16,500.00.

Members and non-members can donate to this fund via *Paypal* to buildingfund@williamblakeoto.org or make out a check or money order to William Blake Lodge, O.T.O. Please mail donations to the postal address listed below. Donations are tax deductible.





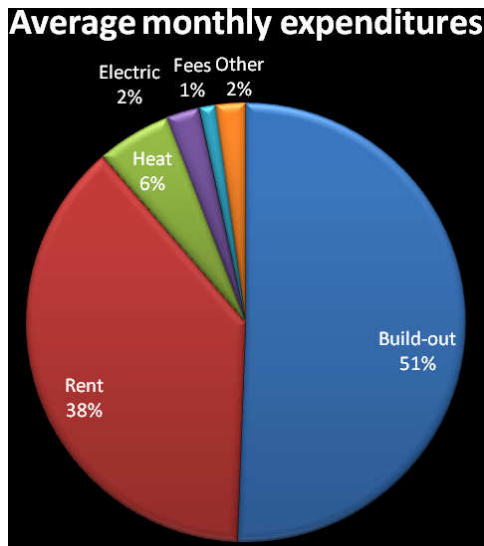
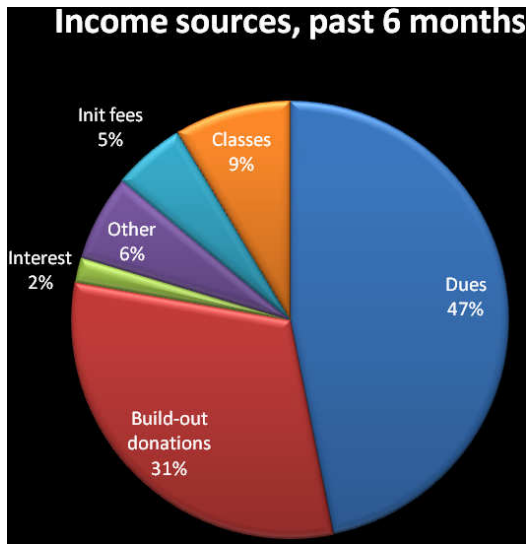
Matters Concerning the Disk: Lodge 1st and 2nd Quarter Financial Update

The Bottom Line: William Blake Lodge Expenses and Income since April 1, 2008

Expenses		Income**	
Build-out	\$4,382	Dues	\$2,825
Rent	\$3,300	Donations	\$1,865
Heat	*	Other	\$385
Electric	\$210	Initiation fees	\$324
Fees	\$106	Classes	\$520
Other	\$190	Total income	\$5,919
Total expenses	\$8,188	Net loss:	-\$2,269

* Heating bills started at the end of September

** General fund income only; does not include C.D. interest.



ECCLESIA GNOSTICA CATHOLICA

We would like to congratulate the following members of the E.G.C. upon receiving their sacraments officiated by Tau Zalmoxis on August 23, 2008:

Welcome Guest ClintaX – Baptized
 Katherine – Baptized
 Welcome Guest ClintaX - Confirmed
 Br. Ausharrenwille – Confirmed

A FEAST FOR LIFE



Tauna (Sr. Hetaera) and Voron (Fr. Aster) Xarya are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Xerxes Israfel Orion Sebastian Xarya, who came into this world on July 7th, 2008 at 5:54 pm in Baltimore, weighing 1 lb, 11.5 oz and measuring 12.5 inches long.

He was born three months prematurely, and after a rough start due to his immature lungs, has successfully graduated from his breathing tube to a breath-assistance machine. As September 1st, he was 8 weeks old and was strong enough for his mother and father to hold him outside the isolette for the very first time. He has recently been moved to a crib and is breathing with minimal aid.

He is expected to be strong and stable enough to go home sometime in December.



Xerxes Xarya



MEET THE WILLIAM BLAKE LODGE OFFICERS

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Librarian

Robert Maiolo/Br. PFDV
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Webmaster





We would like to thank Br. Dougal for his term of service as Lodge Secretary and Sr. Kaywinnit Lux for her term of service as Lodge E.G.C. Secretary. These duties will be combined and taken over by our new Lodge Secretary, Br. Ausharrenville.



LOOKING AHEAD

Calendar of Events

Fri. Dec. 5 to Sun. Dec. 7: Mass-a-thon (Open and closed events)

Cost: \$55 per person for weekend (early registration until 10/31/2008)
 \$65 per person for weekend (late registration after 10/31/2008)
 \$20 per person at the door for Friday
 \$40 per person at the door for Saturday
 \$20 per person at the door for Sunday
 Donation Baphomet Bar

Fri. Dec. 5: Mass-a-thon (Open)

8pm: arrival

9:30pm: Mass

11:00pm: Mass

Location: 208 South Pulaski St., Suite 5B; Baltimore, MD 21223

Directions: <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=208+South+Pulaski+Street+Baltimore,+MD+21223>

Sat. Dec. 6: Mass-a-thon (Open and closed events)

10:30am: arrival/brunch

12:00pm: Mass

1:30pm: Mass

3:00pm: Mass

4:30pm: Mass

Dinner break

8pm: arrival

8:30pm: Mass

10:00pm: Mass

11:30pm: III* Mass (CLOSED to III°an above)

Location: 208 South Pulaski St., Suite 5B; Baltimore, MD 21223

Directions: <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=208+South+Pulaski+Street+Baltimore,+MD+21223>

Sun. Dec. 7: Mass-a-thon (Open)

10:30am: arrival/brunch

12:00pm: Mass

1:30pm: Mass

3:00pm: Mass

4:30pm: Farewells & clean up.

Location: 208 South Pulaski St., Suite 5B; Baltimore, MD 21223

Directions: <http://maps.google.com/maps?q=208+South+Pulaski+Street+Baltimore,+MD+21223>

2009

NOTOCON VII - O.T.O. National Conference

Unity Uttermost Showed

August 7 - 9, 2009

Seattle, Washington

<http://vii.notocon.org>



 **CONTACT US**

As always, please contact us anytime – we welcome your questions, comments or feedback.

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FaceBook: <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8791083995>
MySpace: <http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=184608798>
YahooGroup: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/williamblakeoto>

United States Grand Lodge, Ordo Templi Orientis: <http://www.oto-usa.org>

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