



William Blake Lodge Newsletter

“Promulgating Thelema Starting with You!”

www.williamblakeoto.org

Volume 3 January 2009
Autumnal Equinox - Winter Solstice News

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

– Sr. Hypatia

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

With the wrap-up of 2008, William Blake Lodge looks back on a year of significant changes and outstanding successes. We started the year with an exceptional Luau fundraiser that made a profit of over \$2,000 and included our first-ever corporate sponsorship. We transitioned mastership of the body for the third time and have sixteen strong years behind us of continuous O.T.O. presence in the community. We moved into our new home of a rented warehouse space and have made steady progress toward transforming it into a spectacular temple. We hosted guest presenters from both California and New York, and have held our first regional event in the new space. We have even gained a local bishop. It has been an incredible year.

In 2009, we look ahead to additional development in our membership, our program and our home. Naturally, more build-out is required to finish completing our space. Now that our classroom space is nearly complete, the Lodge is once more revving up our various classes, Masses, rituals and educational program offerings. A WishList.com account was started to keep a catalogue of equipment still required for the space so members wanting to donate something can see what we need. Our leadership and membership together continue to create a smoothly functioning community filled with all the fraternity, experience and eclectic diversity that is the O.T.O.

Love is the law, love under will.

Mass-a-thon 2008

William Blake Lodge kicked off its first regional event in the new space on December 5 – 7, 2008 with the Lodge's second Mass-a-thon. Members from four bodies participated in the program of twelve different Masses (plus one impromptu interpretation) including Azul Nox Camp, Golden Lotus Oasis, Tahuti Lodge and William Blake Lodge. A vibrant tapestry was the result of so many different individual styles, with many kinds of ceremonial robes and deliveries of the ritual. Among the highlights of the weekend were a communication with champagne, a Mass for III' initiates only, and the Theodore Reuss translation of the Gnostic Mass printed in *Red Flame* vol. II. Chris P. made his debut as deacon over the weekend and The Baphomet Bar had its grand opening as well with special martinis for the participants.



Sr. Pennis of Azul Nox Camp



Soror Ador of Tahuti Lodge





The Reuss translation had odd features such as somewhat different lines, the additional officer of *Psyche*, a practically bare superaltar, a red light, and a communication with different words in a different position. The Priestess was instructed to resume her robe before the veil is opened. It was commented that the ritual was just dissimilar enough to be a real challenge. In fact, a newcomer said he preferred the Reuss version of the Mass over the official script.



Reuss Mass "Sign of the Delta"



Reuss Mass Team under the Red Light

Br. Freeshadow would like to thank everyone for participating and their work planning Mass-a-thon. Various members helped by cooking food, running errands, making drinks and keeping the temple equipped and tidy. Although the space was chilly that weekend, everyone remained in good spirits and conversed late into the night. Members received a great benefit by working with a diversity of clergy and having an opportunity to officiate as many roles as possible in one weekend. The Lodge hopes to hold yet another Mass-a-thon again this fall.

Temple Transformation



Do you have handyman/woman skills? Do you like to chase cats with a vacuum? Look no further, because there is still plenty of work to do on the build-out of the William Blake Lodge Temple. As anyone who has undertaken such a project knows, sometimes it just takes some hands-on skill, sweat and grunt work to create a place of tranquility and harmony that is ripe for the Great Work.

Prior to Mass-a-thon, Bros. Freeshadow, Libras Abrasax, Euaristos, and Ausharrenville worked over Thanksgiving weekend to put up the walls of the classroom, tile the storage area and build a bar. Indeed, the Lodge had a great deal to be thankful for when they arrived to a space with a completely transformed character. NOW it is looking like Lodge, a home for the Work of our Most Holy Order. Additional assistance was provided by Br. Richard and Sr. Hypatia with other tasks such as organizing the space and sweeping up the ever-present dust. One need not be a carpenter to make a valuable investment in renovating our home.

Presently, plans are in place for 2009 to work on the kitchen and our own bathroom with shower. This is the expensive part of the project which requires permits, plumbing and professional contractor services. Please point your visualization skills toward our landlords; we are hoping they will be willing to contribute some capital to such a significant upgrade in their space. Realistically, this will probably have to be funded from member contributions, but imagine what pleasure it will be to have a spacious bathroom rather than tiny, merely functional toilet cubicles. Already, groups have asked about renting our Lodge space, so we hope Blake members recognize that we have something rare and precious among esoteric communities.

In additional news, the Lodge now owns a coffee maker, hot tea maker, refrigerator, and new equipment such as yoga mats, blocks and blankets. Generous Brothers recently donated a brand new electric stove, DVD player, and it is rumored that we will receive a donated bookcase soon for the WBL library, which was recently moved to the Lodge. We also have an account on WishList.com for additional equipment. The link is <http://snipurl.com/au1h7> Please check it out.



M.M.M. Room/Classroom Transformation Photos



The original space at time of lease



Adding the subfloor for the classroom



Adding the laminate flooring over subfloor



Framing the classroom wall



Drywall added over frame, hole cut for service



Business end of service area, to become kitchen. The fridge is the location of the future bathroom.

How can you help? There is still mudding and taping to do in our classroom, plus eventually there will be painting, more drywalling, and other sorts of work. Handy experience is not needed. You can also assist by making a donation to the build-out fund via *Paypal* at treasurer@williamblakeoto.org. Please be watchful for forthcoming build-out dates where you can donate a weekend, a day, or even just an afternoon of your time. Your participation matters. Join us and build something beautiful, something to make you proud.



Building Fund Update

With dramatic and turbulent changes in the U.S. economy during the last quarter, the Lodge has been paying careful attention to its one investment. We are happy to say that the portion of the Building Fund that resides in a money market account *has not* lost money. The fund is still accruing interest in a very modest 1.4% range, but our principal remains intact. 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.

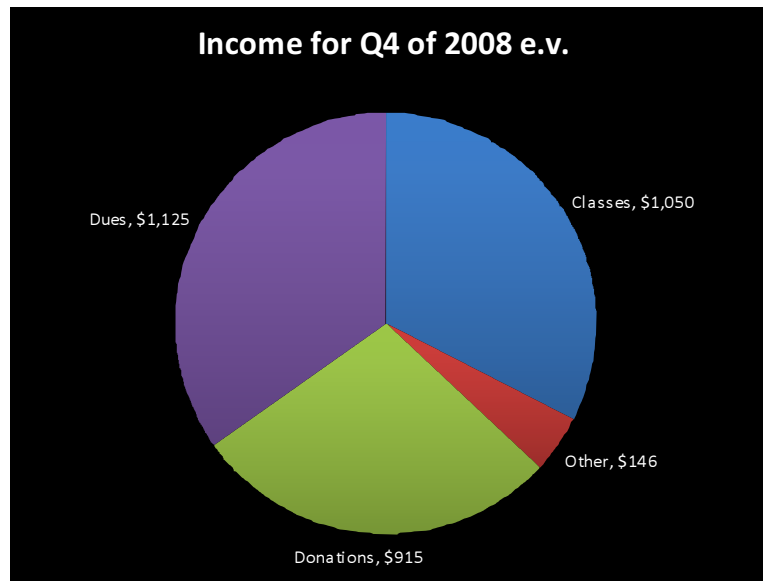
Matters Concerning the Disk: William Blake Lodge 4th Quarter 2008 Financial Review

Stabilizing our finances continues to be a challenge. Our goal is to have the expenses of our Lodge, including the utilities and \$550 monthly rent, paid for by the Lodge membership dues, averaging to approximately 27 members. For the 4th quarter of 2008, the Lodge averaged 15 members paying dues a month, or only \$375. Additionally, the Lodge continued to incur necessary expenses for the build-out to improve the space for our daily operations. To make up the difference, we used the reserves saved in our general fund.

As our general fund is a finite amount of money, we encourage lapsed members to make arrangements to get current on their dues. Donations are still needed to complete our remaining build-out. As always, the Lodge exists for the benefit of its members, and its operations are funded solely by member contributions.

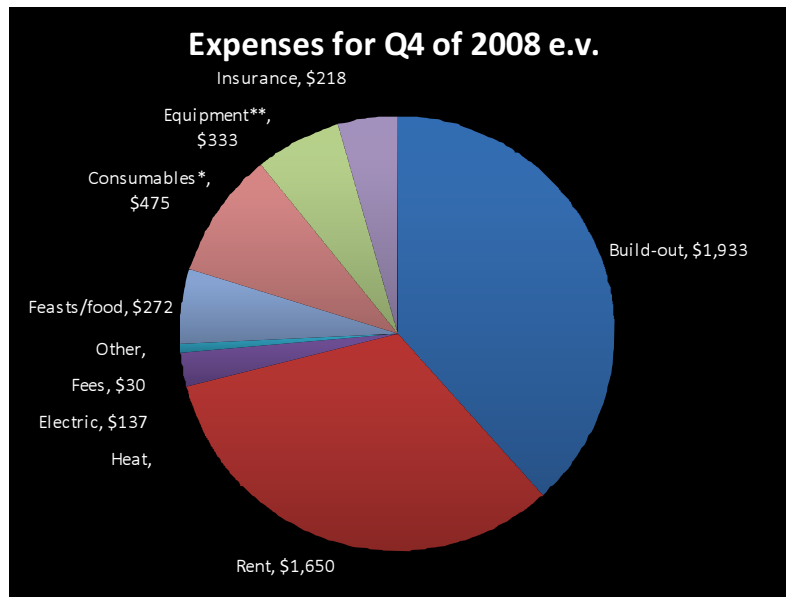
4th Quarter 2009 Income

Classes, Mass-a-thon	\$1,050.00
Other	\$146.00
Donations	\$915.00
Dues	\$1,125.00
Total Income	\$3,236.00



4th Quarter 2009 Expenses

Build-Out	\$1,933.00
Rent	\$1,650.00
Heat* (\$900/year)	\$0.00
Electric	\$137.00
Fees (Paypal, etc.)	\$30.00
Feasts/food	\$272.00
Consumables**	\$475.00
Equipment***	\$333.00
Insurance	\$218.00
Total Expenses	5,048.00



Additional Financing

Pulled from reserves	\$1,813.00
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*Heat was paid for the year in May 2008.

**Trash bags, EGC supplies, Baphomet bar, paper towels, etc.

***Tables, tablecloths, yoga mats, etc.





Tau Zalmoxis Interviews the New USGL EGC Secretary

ZALMOXIS: When did the transition from Sr. Sulis to yourself take place?

HYPATIA: I was offered the position at the end of November 2008. It was a great honor to have been recommended. With the holidays and all, we are still getting the files transferred, getting me familiar with the requirements, etc. Like any new job, it takes a little time to get comfortable with the position.

ZALMOXIS: What are some of your duties as EGC Secretary?

HYPATIA: I keep records on sacraments and ordinations performed throughout the United States, make sure EGC members meet requirements to act as novices or clergy, and assist in helping aspiring novices to find a supervising bishop. Since I am not a bishop myself, as EGC Secretary I do not actually make any policies, although I can certainly influence them. I plan to add more content to the USGL website.

ZALMOXIS: Where do the names "Hypatia" and "Rose of Hades" come from?

HYPATIA: "Hypatia, Rose of Hades" is my baptismal name and motto. Hypatia of Alexandria was a historical figure born around 360 e.v. and was a teacher, mathematician, astronomer and philosopher. She was an unusual woman for her time: well-educated, refused marriage, and worked at the Library of Alexandria, one of the wonders of the ancient world. She discouraged mysticism and superstition and instead defended science against religion. Blamed for religious turmoil, she was murdered by a Coptic Christian mob, who, as the story goes, flayed the flesh off her bones with abalone shells. I admire Hypatia's courage, knowledge, independence and dedication. Since I also study astronomy, I connect to her scientific side. I wish we knew more about her.

"Rose of Hades" is my motto taken from a reference to Kundry in Wagner's opera *Parsifal*. She represents redemption through woman and a personification of the Holy Graal.

ZALMOXIS: In addition to being EGC Secretary, you've also become involved in Kaaba. What are you doing as part of that program?

HYPATIA: *Kaaba Colloquium* is the leadership program sponsored by U.S. Grand Lodge. It is for local body leaders to improve their leadership skills, network, and get tools to deal with challenges in running our organization on the camp, oasis and lodge level. I am guest presenter for *Kaaba*. I will be doing two presentations this May for the *Kaaba* held in southern California, one on special events, and the other on best practices for managing independent temple space.

ZALMOXIS: Are there any changes taking place in EGC that we should know about?

HYPATIA: Yes. The biggest change associated with my position is that the certificates given to candidates for their baptisms, confirmations and ordinations are no longer passed through the office of the EGC Secretary. The EGC Secretary no longer signs certificates. Certificates are now printed and signed by the officiating clergy, and can be given to the candidate immediately concluding the ceremony. No more cumbersome mailing documents back and forth. Everything can be printed and processed by a body and officiating clergy.

Templates for EGC certificates are available from me or the Document Control Officer. Bodies may also design and use their own certificates, but only with approval from the EGC Secretary.

ZALMOXIS: I know you've only recently taken on the job, but what are some of challenges you've encountered?

HYPATIA: Getting up and running with the Grand Lodge system has been time consuming. Since my duties cover the entire nation, I am also getting more familiar with the clergy and members of bodies throughout the United States. Although I consider myself pretty well-connected within the Order, there are still many bodies I have not traveled to and I may not have met their members. I really enjoy the opportunity to serve my Sisters and Brothers in this capacity, and I look forward to getting to know them better.





6th Annual Winter Luau Party

It's that time of year again when we combat the winter brown and blahs with color and coladas. The 6th Annual Winter Luau Party is scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2009, from 1:00 pm until 10:00 pm. This year's Luau will be simpler than last year since we are still building a proper kitchen. There will be no silent action or printed program; however, we will still have all the food, music, door prizes, Tarot, foofy drinks, limbo contest and other fun that have made the Luau Legendary! As usual, wear your favorite Hawaiian shirt and we will have a donation bar with a \$3.00 suggested drink donation. Non-alcoholic substitutes are always available.

\$20.00 for WBL members by 2/14/2009

\$25.00 for WBL members after 2/14/2009, non-members, or at the door



Inclement weather date is Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 1:00 pm.

Volunteers are needed to decorate, bartend, set up and clean up. Please contact master@williamblakeoto.org to volunteer. Set up time is 11 am. Bartender is a highly coveted position.

All profits from this event go to the William Blake Lodge Building Fund. Donations are tax deductible.

ECCLESIA GNOSTICA CATHOLICA



We would like to congratulate the following member of the E.G.C. upon receiving her sacrament officiated by Br. Paul on October 19, 2008:

Sr. Kaywinnit Lux – Deacon Ordination

INITIATIONS

Join us in congratulating our brothers who received their III^o initiation September 27, 2008:



Br. Von Hohenheim
Br. Ausharrenville

We mourn your passing!

Are you interested in initiation? Do you have questions? Please contact the Lodge initiation secretary, BJ Swayne at initiation@williamblakeoto.org for further information.



MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT



Ms. Kerry Kurowski (Soror Hypatia), daughter of Benedict Kurowski and Patricia Mauloff, was married to Dr. Richard Kaczynski (Tau Zalmoxis), son of Peter and Henrietta Kaczynski, on Friday, November 7, 2008, during a celebration attended by 50 family and friends. The ceremony, officiated by Best Man Tau Roncelin of Tahuti Lodge and attended by the bride's sister Leilani J. as Matron of Honor, was written by the bride and groom. The vows were exchanged during a Gnostic Mass celebrated by the groom (priest), bride (priestess), Sr. Zephiniah of Knight Templar Oasis (deacon), Br. Von Hohenheim of William Blake Lodge (positive child), and Br. EAOA of Pyramid Lodge (negative child). The wedding was followed by a reception at Overhills Mansion in Catonsville, Maryland, that featured dinner and live entertainment of a bharatnatyam dancer, a belly dancer, and karaoke by the wedding guests. The bride and groom thank everyone for their participation and best wishes. The bride has chosen to retain her maiden name.



Sr. Hypatia and Tau Zalmoxis

MEET THE WILLIAM BLAKE LODGE OFFICERS

Christopher Surprise/Br. Freeshadow
master@williamblakeoto.org

Master

BJ Swayne/Br. Von Hohenheim
deputy@williamblakeoto.org

Deputy Master/Initiation Secretary
 Publications Officer

Sr. Adayah Bareket
treasurer@williamblakeoto.org

Treasurer

Hank Kuhfeldt/Br. Ausharrenville
secretary@williamblakeoto.org

Secretary

Richard Kaczynski/Tau Zalmoxis
rkaczynski@earthlink.net

Librarian

Robert Maiolo/Br. PFDV
pfdv@refinedrapture.com

Webmaster



LOOKING AHEAD

Calendar of Events

Inclement winter weather cancellations will be made by 10am the morning of the event and distributed through email.



**Sat. Feb 21: Winter Luau 2009**

Wear your finest Hawaiian shirt and prepare to limbo!

11:00am: setup

1:00pm: arrival

\$20.00 for WBL members by 2/14/2009

\$25.00 for WBL members after 2/14/2009, non-members, or at the door

Limbo contest! Tarot Card Readings! Games! Food! Pina coladas!

In case of weather, this event will be rescheduled to Feb. 28

Sat. Feb. 28: Chakra Class (Open)

2:30pm: Arrival/Social time

Doorkeeper will let people into the Cambridge Building between 2:30pm & 2:55pm.

Please arrive punctually. \$5 Donation requested per person. (Dues current WBL members no charge)

3pm: Chakra Class

Sat. Feb. 28: The Vision and the Voice Class (Open)

5:00pm: Arrival/Social time

Doorkeeper will let people into the Cambridge Building between 4:30pm & 4:55pm.

Please arrive punctually. \$5 Donation requested per person. (Dues current WBL members no charge)

5:30pm: The Vision and the Voice Class

Continued reading & discussion of Liber 418

Sat. Mar. 14: Tarot Spreads, Meditation and Scrying (Open)

Participants will reinforce symbolic attributions and practice readings in this hands-on workshop.

You will learn spreads and meditation techniques with the Tarot.

Bring a pillow, throw blanket and your favorite Tarot decks!

\$5 donation for non-members.

1:30pm: Arrival/Social time

Doorkeeper will let people into the Cambridge Building between 1:30am & 1:55pm.

2pm: Tarot Class

Sat. Mar. 21: William Blake Lodge Business Meeting (Open to WBL Members)

All Dues-Current WBL Members are welcome to attend.

11:40am: Arrival/Social time

Doorkeeper will let people into the Cambridge Building between 11:40am & 11:55am.

12pm: Business Meeting

Sat. Mar. 21: William Blake Lodge Gnostic Mass (Open)

2:30pm: Arrival/Social time

Doorkeeper will let people into the Cambridge Building between 2:30pm & 2:55pm.

Please arrive punctually. \$5 Donation requested per person.

3pm: Mass

Mass team: TBA

Sat. Mar. 21: Vernal Equinox Ritual (Open)

4:30pm: Arrival/Social time

Doorkeeper will let people into the Cambridge Building between 4:30pm & 4:55pm.

Please arrive punctually. \$5 Donation requested per person. (Dues current WBL members no charge)

5pm: Equinox ritual

April 8, 9 & 10: The Three Days of the Writing of the Book of the Law**Wed. Apr. 8: Writing of the Book of the Law (Chapter 1) (Open)**

11:30am: arrival/social time 12pm: reading of Liber CCXX, Chapter 1

Other events to be announced

Thurs. Apr. 9: Writing of the Book of the Law (Chapter 2) (Open)

11:30am: arrival/social time 12pm: reading of Liber CCXX, Chapter 2

Other events to be announced





**Fri. Apr. 10: Writing of the Book of the Law (Chapter 3) (Open)
Lecture, Book Signing and Feast**

11:30am: arrival/social time 12pm: reading of Liber CCXX, Chapter 3
8pm: The History of the Thoth Tarot and Its Intersection with Pop Culture
with Richard Kaczynski, Ph.D., author of *The Weiser Concise Guide to Aleister Crowley*
(a multi-media extravaganza!)
9pm: Author book signing of *The Weiser Concise Guide to Aleister Crowley*
with Richard Kaczynski, Ph.D. Books will be available for sale.

Sat. Apr. 18: William Blake Lodge Business Meeting (Open to WBL Members)

All Dues-Current WBL Members are welcome to attend.
11:40am: Arrival/Social time
Doorkeeper will let people into the Cambridge Building between 11:40am & 11:55am.
12pm: Business Meeting

Sat. Apr. 18: William Blake Lodge Gnostic Mass (Open)

2:30pm: Arrival/Social time
Doorkeeper will let people into the Cambridge Building between 2:30pm & 2:55pm.
Please arrive punctually. \$5 Donation requested per person.
3pm: Mass
Mass team: TBA

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.

Lodge physical address:

208 South Pulaski Street, Suite 5B
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Lodge postal mailing address:

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P.O. Box 3183
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Check us out on the web:

Website: www.williamblakeoto.org
LiveJournal: <http://community.livejournal.com/williamblakeoto>
FaceBook: <http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8791083995>
MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/williamblakeoto>
YahooGroup: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/williamblakeoto>

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





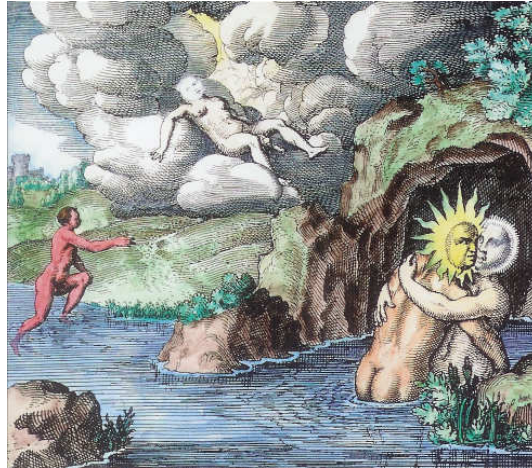
Donations and Dues

Please make out checks or money orders to *William Blake Lodge, O.T.O.* Please mail donations to the postal address listed above, or they may be given in person at a Lodge event.

Donations by Paypal

Building Fund: buildingfund@williamblakeoto.org
Dues, General Donations: treasurer@williamblakeoto.org

All donations are tax deductible.



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