

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U.S. GRAND LODGE OF ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS

# AGAPÉ

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SPRING & SUMMER 2015 EV





*The Official Organ of the  
United States Grand Lodge of  
Ordo Templi Orientis*

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as editor for *Agapé*.

Firstly, I wish to offer my thanks to Frater Julianus for his many years of service as editor. We all wish him the best!

Br. Terry Murdock continues to serve as Assistant Editor. Br. Terry put in tremendous work to rebuild our printing and distribution infrastructure, and we are thrilled to get new issues into your hands. Br. Terry now serves as Master of Golden Thread Camp in Pittsburgh.

We also welcome Br. Andrew Lent, who brings his layout and design skills to the team. Br. Andrew is Master of Black Sun Lodge in Cleveland.

Thanks also to Fr. Enatheleme for proofreading assistance.

There have been numerous inquiries about receiving postal issues of *Agapé*. Please be sure that your postal address is current with the Grand Treasurer General, as that is the source for our mailing list. We do not send back-issues, but you can find them all online at <http://lib.oto-usa.org/agape/>.

As always, we welcome your content submissions at [agape@oto-usa.org](mailto:agape@oto-usa.org). Share your articles, local body milestones, news, rituals, and artwork!

*Love is the law, love under will.*

Faternally,

Sr. Julia Thiebes  
Editor, *Agapé*



## FROM THE GRAND MASTER

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

### EDITORIAL TRANSITION

First things first--I'd like to welcome our new editor, Sister Julia Thiebes! Sister Julia has been a member of the *Agapé* staff for a few years already, so she knows what she's getting into. This is the first full issue under her editorship, and I have great hopes for her. I'd also like to extend my thanks to Frater Julianus for his service to the Order and to this publication as editor. I wish him the best.

### ELECTORAL COLLEGE TRANSITION

Since our last announcement regarding Electoral College transitions, an additional five members have completed their eleven-year terms: Sisters Eliza McBryde, Liesl Cluff, and Ariana White, and Brothers Dann Buchanan and Mark Stahl. Many thanks to all of you, Brothers and Sisters, and best wishes for your future careers in O.T.O. Taking their places are Sisters Valerie Rogers and Kayla Block, and Brothers Geoff Leibinger, Josh Sharp, and Mike Estell. Thank you all for volunteering, and good luck! We hope you find the experience rewarding.

### 2014 ANNUAL MEETINGS

Many thanks to Soror Hypatia and the members of Infinite Stars Chapter R+C and William Blake Lodge for hosting our annual joint U.S.G.L. governing body meetings over the weekend of July 11-13, 2014 EV in Baltimore, Maryland. It was a great venue, and, as usual, we got a lot accomplished.

### O.H.O. ELECTION

On October 10, 2014 EV, in accordance with Section 3.07(D) of the International Bylaws of O.T.O., the five current National Grand Masters General convened in Florence, Italy and held an election to fill the office of Outer Head of the Order de jure (Frater Superior and Caput Ordinis O.T.O.). Several nominations were put forth (including one woman). Frater Hymenaeus Beta, the Acting O.H.O., was unanimously elected to the office, additionally confirming him in his existing offices of Caliph and Sovereign Patriarch of Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica.

This action is likely to have little noticeable effect in terms of day-to-day operation of the Order, because Frater H.B. has been effectively filling this role since his election as Caliph and Acting O.H.O. in 1986 EV. The principal significance of this action is that it represents a "shifting of gears" of the Order as a mature, international organization; and the setting aside of certain transitional aspects of the International Bylaws.

*Habemus Caput!*

### MYSTERY OF MYSTERY, SECOND EDITION

A revised, expanded edition of my book about the Gnostic Mass and E.G.C. has been published, and is now in its second printing. In this revised and expanded edition you will find a previously unpublished essay by Aleister Crowley on Sir Richard Francis Burton, expanded and revised essays on our Gnostic Saints, and a new chapter on the public sacramental rites as used by E.G.C. in the U.S.A.

The book is available from your local U.S. O.T.O. body or from the publisher:

Conjoined Creation  
P.O. Box 1172  
Berkeley, CA 94701  
USA  
(510) 384-4089

*Mystery of Mystery: A Primer of Thelemic Ecclesiastical Gnosticism*

Second Edition, revised and expanded to 380 pages  
Second Printing  
Octavo, 6"x9"

Hardcover, Smythe sewn on acid free, recycled paper  
Linen cloth cover  
Foil stamped cover and spine.

\$5 from every book purchase is contributed directly to U.S.G.L.

To obtain a copy, PayPal \$31 to cover the book, taxes, and media mail shipping within the U.S.A. to: info@concreat.org. For pricing on bulk orders and shipping outside the U.S.A., please write to info@concreat.org.

### A POLICY NOTE ON PHYSICAL APPEARANCE AND DISABILITY

Physical appearance is not to be considered a factor in advancement, eligibility for a ritual role, or any other aspect of O.T.O. participation. Physical disability may limit participation in some cases, but every reasonable effort should be made to work with disabled individuals to enable their work in our Order. It is allowed and encouraged to make small modifications to our rituals (with the approval of an S.G.I.G. or Bishop as appropriate) to accomplish this.

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## AMENDMENT TO NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The U.S. Grand Lodge non-discrimination policy has been amended to address gender identity. The full policy is now:

*There shall be no consideration of race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation when considering the fitness of candidates for admission, advancement, or appointment to office within Ordo Templi Orientis U.S.A.*

Specific policies regarding gender remain applicable to the assignment of certain ritual roles and to ordination to the clerical roles of Priest and Priestess, as described in the *E.G.C. Manual* (see below).

## GENDER ASSIGNMENT TO THE E.G.C. ROLES OF PRIEST AND PRIESTESS

For public celebrations of the Gnostic Mass,\* Section III.B.2.i.(vii) of the U.S. *E.G.C. Manual* applies:

*The role of Priest shall be filled by a man, and the role of Priestess shall be filled by a woman. For purposes of this document, transgendered and partially transgendered individuals shall be considered to be of the gender with which they most closely identify.*

\*A “public celebration of the Gnostic Mass” is a celebration of Liber XV: The Gnostic Mass that is an official O.T.O. event as defined in the Camp, Oasis, and Lodge Master’s Handbook (C.O.L.M.H.), and at which at which persons who are not initiate members of O.T.O. could be present.

The above policies pertaining to gender assignment to the roles of Priest and Priestess in public celebrations of the Gnostic Mass also pertain to the assignment of the titles “Priest” and “Priestess” in ordination to the E.G.C. Priesthood. In the case of those assuming transgender roles, we expect their gender identification to be a matter of dedicated, unwavering fact.

## ZERO EQUALS TWO CULTURE BLOG

We are pleased to announce the launch of *Zero Equals Two*, a new culture blog produced exclusively by initiate members of O.T.O., updated daily during the work week. The blog can be accessed directly at [zeroequalstwo.net](http://zeroequalstwo.net), or via a menu link on the main U.S.G.L. website.

## O.T.O. AND A°.A°.:

We have received an increasing number of inquiries regarding the relationship between O.T.O. and A°.A°.:. Crowley describes the relationship in several documents:

O.T.O. “does not include the A°.A°.:, with which august body it is, however, in close alliance.”

– Liber LII: *Manifesto of the O.T.O.*

“Thou wilt note that We have written unto thee more as a member of the O.T.O., than in thy capacity as of the A°.A°.:, for the former organization is coordinate and practical, and concerns itself with material things. But remember this clearly, that the Law cometh from the A°.A°.:, not from the O.T.O. This Order is but the first of the great religious bodies to accept this Law officially, and its whole Ritual has been revised and reconstituted in accordance with this decision.”

– Liber CCC: *Khabs am Pekht*

“...the A°.A°. concerns the individual, his development, his initiation, his passage from “Student” to “Ipsissimus”; he has no contact of any kind with any other person except the Neophyte who introduces him, and any Student or Students whom he may, after becoming a Neophyte, introduce...The details of this Pilgrim’s Progress are very fully set forth in *One Star in Sight*...Now, in the O.T.O., the object of the ceremonies being the Initiation of the Candidate, it is he whose Path in Eternity is displayed in dramatic form.”

– *Magick Without Tears*, Chapter 13, “System of the O.T.O.”

The A°.A°. is a hierarchical teaching, testing, and initiatory system dedicated to the personal spiritual advancement of its individual members. Within A°.A°. all services are rendered free of charge, and no social activities are held. A°.A°. is not incorporated, holds no copyrights or trademarks, and charges no dues or fees. It has no monetary income, and it operates no dues-collecting front groups. It is largely dependent on O.T.O. for assistance with practical matters that lie outside its primary mission, which is purely spiritual in nature. For example, it is O.T.O., not A°.A°.:, which holds the Crowley copyrights, O.T.O. and A°.A°. jointly issue the journal *The Equinox*, and A°.A°. initiation events and lectures are often hosted by local O.T.O. bodies.

Nevertheless, despite their close relationship (as well as certain structural similarities and a strong, mutual interest in the life and works of Aleister Crowley), O.T.O. and A°.A°. are distinctly separate organizations with their own curricula, customs, rituals, spheres of operation, means and methods; and neither is subordinate to the other. Both Orders serve the cause of promulgating the Law of Thelema (which—let us not forget—emanated from the Third Order of the A°.A°. via Crowley), and there is a considerable amount of productive cross-membership; however, it is possible to advance to quite high levels in either organization without formal initiation in the other.

The hierarchical structure of the A°.A°. revolves around the relationship between the individual aspirant, the person who introduced him, and the persons whom he may have introduced himself. However, the A°.A°. system is not merely a collection of independent teacher-student relationships; it has an organized administration consisting of (unpaid) governing officers who are in charge of such matters as internal curriculum, admissions, records, and relations with other organizations.

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In recent years, a variety of individuals and groups have asserted themselves as legitimate successors to the administration of A.°.A.°. that existed under the external leadership of Aleister

Crowley. It is not the place of the O.T.O. to judge the spiritual merits or ultimate “validity” of these various claimants, but it is also not the case that O.T.O. can have a “close alliance” and working relationship with a multiplicity of A.°.A.°. administrations. For its purposes, O.T.O. recognizes a single administration of A.°.A.°. The contact information for that administration is:

Chancellor  
BM ANKH  
London WC1N 3XX ENGLAND  
[secretary@outercol.org](mailto:secretary@outercol.org)  
[www.outercol.org](http://www.outercol.org)

Fraternally,

Sabazius



## FROM THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

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

### NINTH DEGREE REVOLUTIONARY

Members in good standing of the Sovereign Sanctuary of the IX° in the United States (who are not serving as an officer or voting member of any Governing or Administrative Body under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Grand Lodge) wishing to volunteer to stand for election to the office of Revolutionary by the Electoral College are encouraged to write the President of the E.C.—see p. 11 for contact information.

### SANCTION FOR APPEAL

Brothers or Sisters of our Order who wish to pursue appeal to a verdict of the Grand Tribunal may write to individual members of the Electoral College to request sanction be given to take their case to the Areopagus of the Eighth Degree (per *Liber CXCIV*, section 16) via e-mail links found at [ec.oto-usa.org/electors.html](http://ec.oto-usa.org/electors.html).

### HOSTING E.C. MEETINGS

Local bodies that are interested in hosting meetings of the Electoral College are encouraged to write the President of the E.C.—see p. 11 for contact information.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Electoral College, to thank the Master and members of Scarlet Woman Lodge (Austin, TX), and the Master and members of Swirling Star Lodge (Miami, FL), for their excellent hospitality in hosting our Fall and Spring meetings, respectively.

### UPCOMING E.C. MEETINGS

The Summer 2015 EV Electoral College meeting is to be held in conjunction with NOTOCON, hosted by Scarlet Woman Lodge (Austin, TX).

The Fall 2015 EV Electoral College meeting is to be held on Saturday, October 24, 2015 EV at Horus Oasis (Salt Lake City, UT).

The Winter 2015 EV Electoral College meeting is to be held online Saturday, January 16, 2016 EV.

The Spring 2016 EV Electoral College meeting is to be held on Saturday, April 23, 2016 EV at Knights Templar Oasis (Salem, MA).

The deadline for submission of items to be considered for the Summer 2015 EV meeting is July 15, 2015 EV, and the deadline for submission of items to be considered for the Fall, 2015 meeting is September 15, 2015 EV.

Please mail submissions to the Secretary of the Electoral College—see p. 11 for contact information.

*Love is the law, love under will.*

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## ATTENDING E.C. MEETINGS

Dues current members in good standing of V° and above are welcome to attend and observe the in-person Electoral College meetings. We request that those planning to attend contact the master of the hosting body so that adequate arrangements can be made.

## WEBSITE

The official E.C. website can be found at: [ec.oto-usa.org](http://ec.oto-usa.org)

## FORMS

Masters seeking up-to-date forms for Change of Mastership Application, Application for Oasis Status, Application for Lodge Status, or closure forms will find them by contacting the Document Control Officer at [doc\\_control@oto-usa.org](mailto:doc_control@oto-usa.org).

## COMMUNICATION WITH THE E.C.

I would like to invite any initiates with specific concerns or questions regarding the operation of the Electoral College, to write to either the President or Secretary of the E.C. For contact information, please see p. 11.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have ideas for how we can better serve the Man of Earth Triad. All postal mail correspondence with the Electoral College Secretary should be sent to the address listed on p. 11.

## ISSUE OF CONCERN

It has come to the College's attention that a minority of local bodies have not been adequately responding to email inquiries from the public. This is unacceptable. Masters or appointed officers should ideally respond to e-mail inquiries within 24-48 hours. Please ensure that this practice is in place. Local bodies are the public's point of contact with our Holy Order, and we should be as responsive as possible to interested inquiries.

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The Electoral College, at its Fall 2014 EV meeting, held on October 18, 2014 EV, took the following actions concerning duties in its charge:

### Local Body Closures

None.

### Change of Body Status

None.

### Change of Mastership

Mastership of Sekhet-Maat Lodge (Portland, OR) was transferred from Sister Kim Knight to Brother Clay Fouts effective October 18, 2014 EV.

Mastership of NOXVLVXON Camp (Anchorage, AK) was transferred from Brother Aaron to Frater Prometheus effective October 18, 2014 EV.

Mastership of Sekhet Bast Ra Lodge (Oklahoma City, OK) was transferred from Frater SV to Frater Zosimos effective October 18, 2014 EV.

Mastership of Coph Nia Lodge (Eugene, OR) was transferred from Brother David R. Jones to Sister Katherine Jones effective October 18, 2014 EV.

### New Local Body Charters

Pelican Camp was chartered in the Valley of Baton Rouge, LA with Brother Creaux as Master effective October 18, 2014 EV.

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The Electoral College, at its Winter 2015 EV meeting, held on January 17, 2015 EV, took the following actions concerning duties in its charge:

### Local Body Closures

None.

### Change of Body Status

None.

### Change of Mastership

None.

### New Local Body Charters

Roar of Rapture Camp was chartered in the Valley of Omaha, NE with Brother Christopher Nichols as Master effective January 17, 2015 EV.

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The Electoral College, at its Spring 2015 EV meeting, held on April 25, 2015 EV, took the following actions concerning duties in its charge:

### Local Body Closures

None.

### Change of Body Status

Hidden Spring Oasis has been rechartered from the Valley of Daytona Beach, FL, to the Valley of Orlando, FL, effective April 25, 2015 EV.

Sol Invictus Oasis in the Valley of Fayetteville, AR, was rechartered as Lifted Lance Camp effective April 25, 2015 EV.

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**Change of Mastership**

Soror Sapientia Quaerere, who had been acting Master of Sword and Serpent Oasis (Dayton, OH), was confirmed as Master effective April 25, 2015 EV.

**New Local Body Charters**

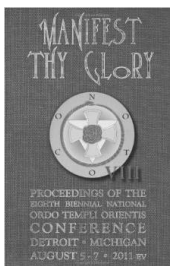
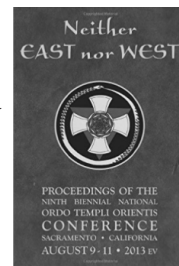
None.

The College wishes to express its appreciation to the past and present Masters of each of these Bodies. We wish each of them the best in their new offices and endeavors.

*Love is the law, love under will.*

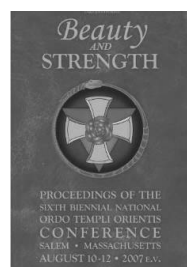
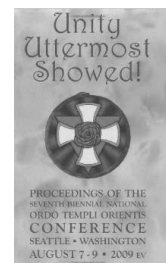
## NATIONAL CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS BOOKS

**NEITHER EAST NOR WEST  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE NINTH  
BIENNIAL NATIONAL ORDO TEMPLI  
ORIENTIS CONFERENCE:  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
AUGUST 9-11, 2013 EV**



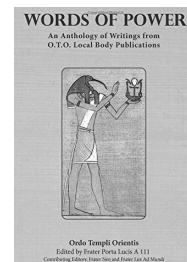
**MANIFEST THY GLORY:  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTH  
BIENNIAL NATIONAL ORDO TEMPLI  
ORIENTIS CONFERENCE:  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
AUGUST 5-7, 2011 EV**

**UNITY UTTERMOST SHOWED!  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTH  
BIENNIAL NATIONAL ORDO TEMPLI  
ORIENTIS CONFERENCE:  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON,  
AUGUST 7-9, 2009 EV**



**BEAUTY AND STRENGTH:  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH  
BIENNIAL NATIONAL ORDO TEMPLI  
ORIENTIS CONFERENCE: SALEM,  
MASSACHUSETTS,  
AUGUST 10-12, 2007 EV**

**WORDS OF POWER:  
AN ANTHOLOGY OF WRITINGS  
FROM O.T.O. LOCAL BODY  
PUBLICATIONS**



**AVAILABLE FROM AMAZON AND  
CREATE SPACE**

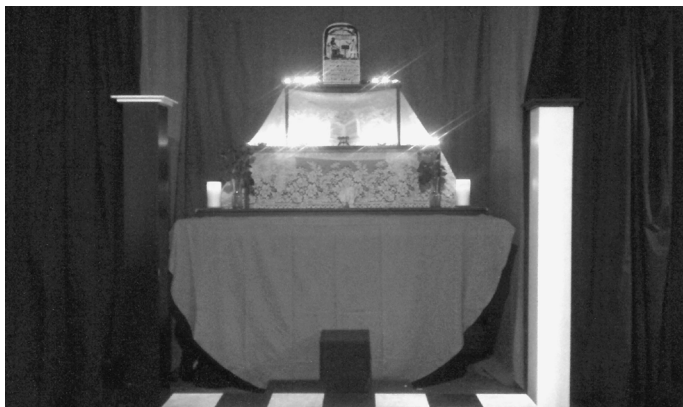


## LOCAL BODY REPORT: SWORD & SERPENT OASIS

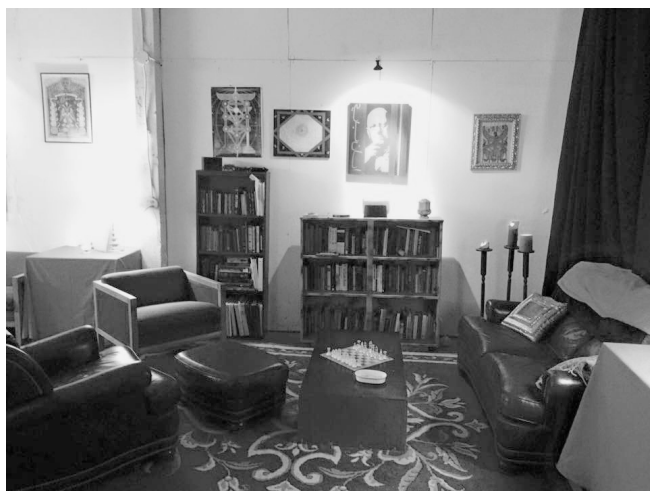
by Liminal Cadence

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

For those of you who have yet to enjoy the warm and memorable rust-belt hospitality of Sword and Serpent Oasis, it is to be found in the Valley of Dayton, Ohio. Through 2014 EV our body brought five initiations, fourteen public Masses, and over twenty special events to the culturally anemic Miami Valley Metro Area. In addition to the typical occult classes, events included the casual *Agapé* Feast in December and group ritual projects. After slightly over three years of practice, craft nights, and rescheduling around festival season, the Oadriax Elemental Weapons Project (Disk, Dagger, Cup, and Wand) was brought to completion last autumn. Another sparkly jewel in the event garter was a particularly intense and empowering C.I.T. weekend. Thank you, Tau Asteria!



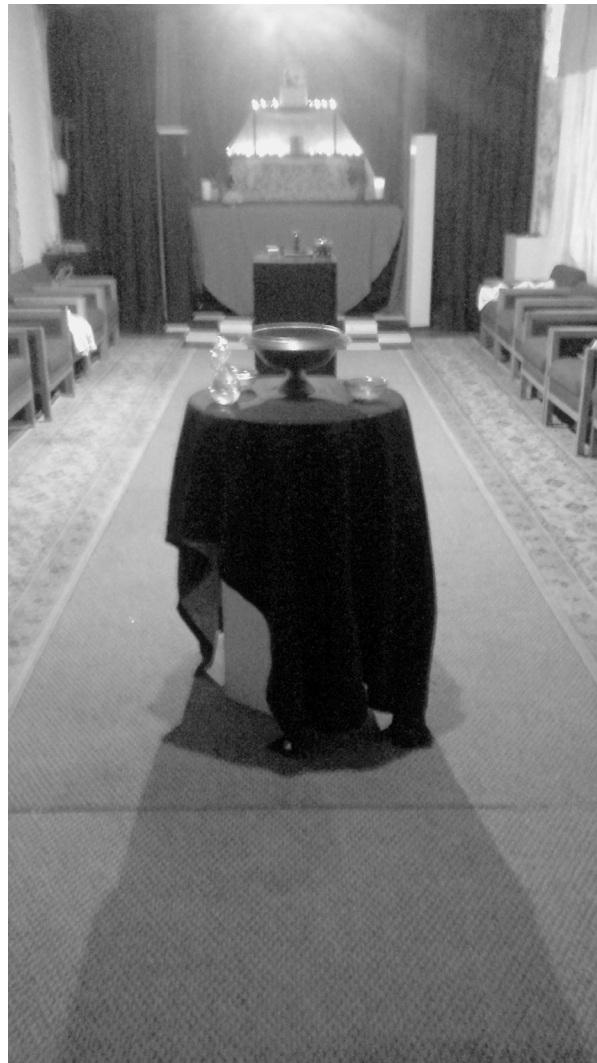
As of this mid-January, 2015 EV writing, our Oasis is off to a smashing start. After a typical break for the vulgar madness of December, the ingrained public Mass schedule is back on its jive and we have had the honor of welcoming two new Men and Brothers to the Order. Most conspicuous, however, is a new tone and revitalized enthusiasm that has flooded the regular Thursday-night get-togethers and business meetings. Not only has “Project Goetia” gotten up some fair steam, sights are also set on densely scheduling M.:M.:M.: events for the coming year. And on top of these ambitions the spirit of remodeling has come to reside in the Temple! Committees are laying plans and devising estimates to fix foot traffic issues (channeling the natural settling place of magi moots further into the lounge area and out of the kitchen), install soundproofing (for when 6-pack diplomacy is not enough to win a Mass-worth of peace and quiet from the neighboring band), put in a dedicated office, create improved storage, and make a number of little functional and aesthetic improvements.



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Our body has long appreciated the airy temple with running water and its manageable price tag. The ‘repurposed industrial’ look has even been endearing, reflecting the formula of heliotropes springing up through impossible cracks prevalent in Dayton, and sometimes enhancing the mysterious occult vibe. However, as always, times and needs evolve and old forms grow tight and crusty. We are floating creative avenues to increase the body’s liquidity and provide enough financial humidity to ease the sloughing of the old peeling paint, raw pipes, and improvised seating for a more efficient and effective temple space in which to enshrine the sacred mysteries and work potent magick in service of the Great Work.



*Love is the law, love under will.*

## AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE U.S.G.L. EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

It is my pleasure to announce that Frater IAO131 will be succeeding me as Secretary of the U.S.G.L. Education Committee. Frater IAO131 has contributed several high quality classes to the committee, has been the committee webmaster for about two years, and brings fresh fire from the skies to continue its work. Thank you, Frater, for stepping up.

Kayla Block

Greeting and health! It is my great honor and pleasure to take over the role of Education Committee secretary from Sister Kayla. My vision for the Education Committee involves generally building up our educational material (such as class modules, graphics, fonts, and other resources), expanding the scope of these education materials, and being more visible and accessible to our membership. In terms of expanding our class modules offered, the goal is to provide a variety of classes covering Magick, Thelema, Hermeticism, Yoga, and other similar topics. We also plan to continue to build our Traveling Lecturers list in order to show the many amazing lecturers within our Order. In general, my hope is that the Education Committee becomes an ever-growing resource for local bodies. If you have any questions or comments, especially if you are willing and able to submit content for potential classes, please contact me at [education@oto-usa.org](mailto:education@oto-usa.org).

Fraternally,  
Frater IAO131

*Love is the law, love under will.*

*Speech in the Silence* is the official podcast of Blazing Star Oasis in the San Francisco Bay Area. We focus on the topics of Thelema, Aleister Crowley, and Ordo Templi Orientis while also touching upon the subjects of Magick, Yoga, and Initiation. The podcast includes lectures, music, interviews, discussions, and

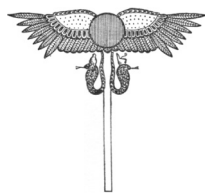
*Speech in the Silence*



readings of the Holy Books of Thelema and other important texts written by Aleister Crowley.

Download or subscribe at iTunes or at [speechinthesilence.com](http://speechinthesilence.com) or visit our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/speechinthesilence](http://youtube.com/speechinthesilence).

M.: M.: M.:



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