

Agapé

From the Grand Master

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

NOTOCON 2003 (of the Common Era) is completed, and, from my (admittedly biased) perspective, was a tremendous success. It was good to see some old friends again, as well as to meet many new ones.

This time, I was able to limit my official participation to giving the usual keynote address and serving in the Gnostic Mass. That, coupled with the unusually small number of problems requiring my attention, allowed me to actually attend some of the presentations and workshops. I was very impressed with the quality, professionalism, and content of the presentations I attended. The venue itself, McMenamin's Edgefield Hotel, is a remarkable place, filled with fascinating artworks, and staffed by people who will actually have a conversation with you. Hopefully, those of you who were unable to attend have at least been able to view some photographs, if not, check with your Local Body Master. Congratulations, kudos, and enormous thanks to the hard-

working members of the NOTOCON 2003 team, the participating Local Bodies of the Northwest, and the NOTOCON presenters, for a job very, very well done!

Now is the time to start thinking seriously about NOTOCON 2005 E.V. We have a standing NOTOCON National Coordinating Committee that exists to evaluate conference proposals and to provide information and support to local bodies interested in sponsoring U.S.G.L. National Conference events. If your local body is interested in the possibility of sponsoring NOTOCON in the future, or jointly sponsoring NOTOCON with one or more other local bodies in your region, please contact Sister Elizabeth (EC-McBryde@oto-usa.org), who is the chair of this committee.

U.S. Grand Lodge Parliamentarian

U.S. Grand Lodge has an official Parliamentarian, Soror Helena, who was appointed to this office by the Executive in November, 2001 E.V. in accordance with Section 3.04 of the Bylaws. Soror Helena has many years of parliamentary experience within the Order and in other organizations, and is a card-carrying member of the National Association of Parliamentarians. Soror Helena also serves as the official Parliamentarian for the International Headquarters of O.T.O.

A Parliamentarian is a resource officer who provides information and expert counsel to the other officers of an organization regarding the con-

duct of meetings, the preparation of agendas and minutes, the preparation of bylaws and procedural guidelines, and, in general, the efficient and fair conduct of organizational business. The consulting services of the U.S. Grand Lodge Parliamentarian are available to all officers of local bodies and governing bodies within U.S. Grand Lodge. For more information, please write to Soror Helena at the contact address provided on page 3.

Love is the law, love under will.

Sabazius

August 1, 2003 E.V.
Volume V, Number 2
© in Ω • ☽ in ☿
IVXI E.N.



Agapé is the Official Organ
of the U.S. Grand Lodge of
Ordo Templi Orientis

Contents

- 1 **From the Grand Master**
by Sabazius
- 2 **Policy Memorandums:**
Revision to Firearms Policy
Prohibition of Certain
Categories of Ex-Members from
Attending Official O.T.O. Events
- 3 **From the Grand Tribunal**
- 4 **From the E.G.C. Secretary**
- 4 **From the Electoral College**

- 5 **NOTOCON 2003 Report**
- 5 **Minerval on a Mission**
by Sara Aronson
- 6 **An Old Newbie at NOTOCON**
by Craig Berry

- 7 **Local Body Reports**
Sekhet Bast Ra Lodge
Hagia Sophia Chapter R+C
- 7 **Note from the Editor**
- 7 **In Memoriam**
Tim Maroney
- 8 **New Psychology Guild
Newsletter**

Policy Memorandums

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

Revision to Firearms Policy

U.S. Grand Lodge's policy on firearms at official functions and events has been revised to bring it into conformance with current laws, and to accommodate the legitimate needs of members who hold licences to carry a concealed weapon for self-protection. Here is the old language, as set forth in the *Camp, Oasis, and Lodge Master's Handbook* and the *Minerval Guide*:

Firearms are prohibited at O.T.O. functions and events unless carried by a law enforcement officer or licensed security guard in the performance of his or her duty.

The revised language is as follows:

Firearms are prohibited within O.T.O. initiation facilities during initiation rituals, and Local Body Masters shall provide due notice of this prohibition to all attendees, in conformance with applicable laws. Firearms are also prohibited at all other O.T.O. functions and events except as provided for, and in strict compliance with, applicable federal, state and local laws and ordinances. For interpretation of applicable laws and ordinances pertaining to firearms, the location of any O.T.O. ritual, including the Gnostic Mass and other E.G.C. rituals, shall be considered a "place of worship." Local Body Masters may, at their sole discretion, prohibit firearms at any O.T.O. event under their control, providing they give due notice in conformance with applicable laws.

State and local laws regarding licenses to carry firearms vary widely (the following website contains a comprehensive listing of state and federal gun laws: <http://www.atf.treas.gov/firearms/statelaws/22edition.htm>), but they typically include provisions that: require the weapon to remain concealed; prohibit the consumption of alcohol and other intoxicants; require the weapon to remain under the direct control of its owner at all times; and prohibit weapons in churches and other places of worship. Report of failure to comply with all applicable laws will typically result in revocation of a license.

Local body officers should familiarize themselves with the applicable laws, but the burden of proof of legal compli-

ance shall always be on the individual carrying the weapon. Failure to provide satisfactory evidence of legal compliance to a local body officer on request shall be grounds for ejection from the O.T.O. function or event, and also possibly for disciplinary action and reporting to the appropriate authorities.

If any individual brandishes or unnecessarily displays a firearm at an O.T.O. event, or consumes alcohol while in known possession of a firearm, or exhibits signs of inebriation while in known possession of a firearm, or threatens to make violent use a firearm in his or her possession, or is discovered to be in possession of a firearm after due notice that firearms are prohibited at the event, then the Local Body Master shall immediately either eject that individual from the event or terminate the event; and shall file a report of the event with an Executive Officer within 48 hours.

Local Body Masters shall require O.T.O. event attendees in possession of firearms to maintain direct control over their firearms at all times. If a firearm must be separated from its owner at an O.T.O. event, the firearm shall be securely locked within a vehicle, or within a NRA-approved, locked storage container, such that it is accessible only to the owner.

Notwithstanding any of the above, Local Body Masters retain the responsibility to ensure the safety of all persons attending O.T.O. events under their control, and Local Body Masters have the authority to prohibit the presence of firearms at any such event at their sole discretion. In most states, this may be done by posting a notice prohibiting firearms at the event, or by verbally notifying all attendees in advance that firearms are prohibited at the event. Note that some states have specific requirements regarding the size and wording of posted notices.

Prohibition of Certain Categories of Ex-Members from Attending Official O.T.O. Events

In the interest of promoting both the safety and security of O.T.O. members and the harmonious functioning of local bodies in the U.S., the Executive has decided to adopt a policy that would distinguish certain categories of ex-members

from the general public, and, except with special permission, prohibit them from attending any official O.T.O. events, even semi-public events such as public performances of the Gnostic Mass.

On February 24, 2003 E.V., the Executive adopted the following resolution:

Individuals who have been duly expelled from membership, or who have had their membership dissolved by the O.H.O., or who have resigned from membership under any of the following conditions:

1. while duly suspended from membership for cause,
2. while prohibited from attending official O.T.O. events,
3. during the course of a Grand Lodge investigation involving potential disciplinary action against them, or
4. after making a serious threat of violence against any person,

shall be prohibited from attending any official O.T.O. events within the U.S.A. unless specifically authorized to do so by Executive resolution. Special, authorizing resolutions will be considered by the Executive on a case-by-case basis, and must be requested by a local body master or S.G.I.G. in a communication to the Grand Secretary General. The Grand Secretary General shall make a reasonable attempt to promptly notify the individual of the prohibition from attending official O.T.O. events. The Grand Treasurer General shall maintain a list of individuals prohibited from attending official O.T.O. events. This resolution shall not limit the power of the Grand Tribunal or the Executive to prohibit any individual from attending official O.T.O. events as deemed necessary by those bodies.

Cases involving resignation under conditions 2, 3, and 4 above will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Executive.

Local body officers are encouraged to ask all newcomers about any previous involvement with O.T.O., and to direct any pertinent questions about listed individuals to the G.T.G. Any violations of the above policy by listed individuals should be promptly reported to the G.T.G. To protect individual privacy, Grand Lodge and local body officers should treat information about listed individuals as confidential, except for the single fact that they are not welcome at O.T.O. events.

Requests submitted to the G.S.G. for special resolutions of the Executive authorizing listed individuals to attend

one or more events should include sufficient information to permit the Executive to make an informed decision. The G.S.G. may respond to the initial request with a request for additional information or a statement from the listed individual. Requests for reinstatement will be considered separately, according to established procedures.

Love is the law, love under will.

Fraternally,
Sabazius X°
National Grand Master General

From the Grand Tribunal

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

Sponsorship

Liber CI, Twelfth House

74. The Order exercises its whole power to relieve its members of any constraint to which they may be subjected, attacking with vigour any person or persons who may endeavor to subject them to compulsion, and in all other ways aiding in the complete emancipation of the Brethren from aught that may seek to restrain them from doing That Which They Will. It is to be observed that these privileges being so vast, it is incumbent upon the honour of every Brother not to abuse them, and the sponsors of any Brother who does so, as well as he himself, will be held strictly to account by the Grand Tribunal.

In the November, 2000 E.V. edition of *Agapé* (vol. III, no. 1), the Grand Master wrote a detailed article on the duties of sponsorship. In this article he mapped out the responsibilities of sponsors and the task appointed to them. The U.S. Grand Tribunal is now instituting a policy whereby we will be tracking sponsors by database in our case files. When complaints are brought before U.S. regarding a member, we will contact the sponsors early in the investigation process. The sponsors will be expected to give an account of their sponsorship and assist with the investigation. They may also be called upon to

assist with resolution of any problems created by the member they sponsored. For example, if it is determined that the member had absconded with local body funds, and cannot be located, the sponsors may be called upon to help restore the stolen funds.

A sponsorship database has been established and will be maintained. Members found to have exhibited a pattern of negligence in sponsorship may have their sponsorship privileges suspended; and, in especially serious cases, may be subjected to additional sanctions such as bad report or suspension. We understand that the behavior of individuals cannot always be predicted, and that people can change over time, but we do expect sponsors to exercise due diligence in their sponsorship. We urge all potential sponsors to familiarize themselves, to the extent possible, with the candidate's background, character, sense of honor, and mental and emotional stability; and in the case of initiates, their history of fraternal interaction with their brothers and sisters, of keeping their oaths and obligations, etc. We understand that this is more difficult to do with candidates for Minerval than with initiates, and we will take this factor into account when evaluating someone's history of sponsorship.

Although little attention has been paid to sponsors in past disciplinary actions, we are now in a position to realize the provisions of Liber CI with respect to sponsorship. Sponsors take note.

Complaint Procedure & Conflict Resolution

In upcoming editions of *Agapé*, we will put forth a series of articles spelling out the proper method of submitting a complaint to the Grand Tribunal, and most importantly, articles dealing with conflict resolution between members. We hope that these articles will be informative to the members and that in future situations, conflicts and complaints can be resolved at the local level.

Love is the law, love under will.

In the Bonds of the Order,
James Nobles, Secretary
U.S. Grand Tribunal
Ordo Templi Orientis

Agapé The Official Organ of
the U.S. Grand Lodge
of Ordo Templi Orientis

Mysteria Mystica Maxima ✦ *Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica*

Executive Editor: Sabazius X°
Editor: John Crow
Design & Layout: Ash
Editorial Address: P.O. Box 7045
Marietta, GA 30065
agape@oto-usa.org

U.S. GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

U.S. NATIONAL GRAND MASTER GENERAL: SABAZIUS X°
P.O. Box 32, Riverside, CA 92502-0032 • nmgm@oto-usa.org

**U.S. DEPUTY NATIONAL GRAND MASTER GENERAL:
LON MILO DUQUETTE**
P.O. Box 3111, Newport Beach, CA 92659-0705
dngmg@oto-usa.org

U.S. GRAND SECRETARY GENERAL: FR. HUNAHPU
P.O. Box 720296, Oklahoma City, OK 73172-0296
(405) 720-6349 • gsg@oto-usa.org

U.S. GRAND TREASURER GENERAL: FR. S.L.Q.
P.O. Box 45139, Los Angeles, CA 90045-0139
(310) 216-5666 • gtg@oto-usa.org
www.oto-usa.org/treasury/

U.S. GRAND TRIBUNAL
P.O. Box 30666, Seattle, WA 98103-0666
grand_tribunal@oto-usa.org

**U.S. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, U.S. SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL,
U.S. CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**
P.O. Box 32, Riverside, CA 92502-0032

U.S. ELECTORAL COLLEGE
DOUGLAS JAMES BLAKE, Pres. • ec_president@oto-usa.org
P.O. Box 47056, Seattle, WA 98146
FR. MERCURIUS, Secretary • electoral_college@oto-usa.org
P.O. Box 1433, Buffalo, NY 14222

U.S.G.L. INITIATION SECRETARY: SR. IXEL BALAMKE
P.O. Box 720296, Oklahoma City, OK 73172-0296
(405) 720-6349 • initiation@oto-usa.org

U.S. E.G.C. SECRETARY: T ANNA ROSE
P.O. Box 182, Carmel, IN 46082-0182 • egc@oto-usa.org

U.S.G.L. PARLIAMENTARIAN: SR. HELENA
P.O. Box 32, Riverside, CA 92502-0032
parliamentarian@oto-usa.org

U.S.G.L. QUARTERMASTER: FR. A.M.D.E.N.
P.O. Box 1373, Buffalo, NY 14213
quartermaster@oto-usa.org

U.S.G.L. WEBMASTER: CRAIG BERRY
webmaster@oto-usa.org

U.S.G.L. LIBRARIAN: FR. K.Z.
P.O. Box 32, Riverside, CA 92502 • librarian@oto-usa.org

U.S.G.L. ARCHIVIST: FR. P.
P.O. Box 6635, Jersey City, NJ 07306

**SECRETARY FOR CORRESPONDENCE,
COORDINATOR, O.T.O. PRISON MINISTRY: T ALLEN GREENFIELD**
3267 Buford Hwy, Ste. 720-109, Atlanta, GA 30329-1707
bishop17@mindspring.com

U.S. PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER: FR. HRUMACHIS
P.O. Box 3008, Ashland, OR 97520 • pio@oto-usa.org

WWW.OTO-USA.ORG

Agapé is published quarterly by Ordo Templi Orientis U.S.A., a California not-for-profit religious corporation with business offices at P.O. Box 32, Riverside, CA 92502-0032.

O.T.O. U.S.A. is a duly recognized Grand Lodge of Ordo Templi Orientis, an international religious organization with business offices at JAF Box 7666, New York, NY 10116, and corporate headquarters at P.O. Box 430, Fairfax, CA 94930.

Donations, legacies and bequests made to Ordo Templi Orientis U.S.A. are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Agapé is distributed to all O.T.O. members in good standing in the U.S.A., and is available for download as a PDF file at the U.S. Grand Lodge website: www.oto-usa.org/docs.html

Copyright © 2003 Ordo Templi Orientis U.S.A. All rights reserved and assigned to the respective authors. The viewpoints and opinions expressed herein are the responsibility of the contributing authors.

Volume V, Number 2 • August 1, 2003 e.v.

From the E.G.C. Secretary

All reporting of E.G.C. information is to be sent to the E.G.C. Secretary:

EGC@OTO-usa.org or
PO Box 182, Carmel, IN 46082-0182

Recognition of Ordination

Bishops please report to the E.G.C. Secretary the civil name of any priest or priestess formally ordained. This reporting can be done via email.

Priests and Priestesses should report the following information for recognition of ordination:

- Full Civil Name
- Magical Names or Mottoes
- Mailing Address
- Telephone Number
- Ecclesiastical Membership Class for which recognition is requested (i.e. Priest, Priestess or Deacon)
- Name and E.G.C. Rank of the person who administered the ordination
- Date of the ordination
- The Name of your Supervising Bishop
- Local Body where ordination performed
- Signature of the person ordained
- Signature of the ordaining officer.

A form for reporting this information is available from the E.G.C. Secretary.

Ministerial Status & Civil Registration

In some jurisdictions, civil registration may be required to perform certain religious functions such as weddings.

The Supreme Grand Council will assist bishops with formal ministerial status to obtain any civil registrations within their jurisdiction that may be required to perform weddings and other ceremonies as may be regulated by state statute.

Formal ministerial status within E.G.C. is available only to E.G.C. bishops. Bishops requesting formal ministerial status should send a letter to the E.G.C. Secretary requesting same, along with a detailed description of the applicable state requirements regarding civil registration of ministers and performance of religious functions and services. All requests for Ministerial status are forwarded to the Supreme Grand Council for their approval.

In some jurisdictions, civil registration may be required to perform certain religious functions. Generally, civil registration is required only for the performance of weddings, but in some jurisdictions the performance of other

religious functions may require civil registration as well. Although formal ministerial status within E.G.C. is available only to E.G.C. bishops, bishops may assist priests and priestesses under their supervision to obtain any necessary civil registrations within their jurisdiction.

Reporting of Baptisms & Confirmations

Baptisms and confirmations should be reported to the E.G.C. Secretary by the officer administering the ceremony. The following information is requested.

- Name of person baptized or confirmed
- Degree or rank of person baptized or confirmed, if applicable
- Name of person(s) performing baptism or confirmation
- Degree or rank of person(s) performing baptism or confirmation
- Local Body where baptism or confirmation was performed
- Date of baptism or confirmation

All questions about reporting and other E.G.C. related information should be sent to Bishop T Anna Rose, E.G.C. Secretary, at EGC@OTO-usa.org

From the Electoral College

Dear Sisters and Brothers,
Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

The following actions concerning local Bodies were taken by the Electoral College at its Summer 2003 E.V. meeting:

Change of Master

Transfer of Mastership of RPSTOVAL Camp (Ashland, OR) from Fr. Ken Johnson to Fr. OX.

Transfer of Mastership of Horus Oasis (Salt Lake City, UT) from Fr. David Herrmann to Fr. Bill Howell.

Transfer of Mastership of Scarlet Woman Lodge (Austin, TX) from Fr. M. Dionysos Rogers to Fr. Omega Kessler

The College wishes to express its

appreciation to the past and present Masters of each of these Bodies. We wish you all the best in your new offices and endeavors.

Change of Status

Swirling Star Camp (Miami, FL) has become Swirling Star Oasis effective August 1st, 2003 E.V.

Congratulations to the Officers, Members and Master of Swirling Star Oasis in this significant step forward.

I would like to invite any initiate with suggestions as to how we can do our job better, or who has a specific concern that they feel should be brought to the College's attention, to write to either the President of the College (ec_president@OTO.org) or Secretary (electoral_college@OTO.org) at any time.

It is my goal as President of the Electoral College to strive to take

effective measures bringing about better communication between the E.C. and the membership of local bodies. Any input provided to this end is warmly welcomed and I believe that communication as such is of benefit to the entire Order in our mutual goals and aspiration toward enlightenment in all forms.

On another note: It was announced in the previous issue of Agape that Trust funds are being set up for our departed Sr. Jeni Moses's two sons. Since that time, contact information for contributing to that fund has changed. Anyone wishing to contribute may contact tzaddi_93@yahoo.com or neffen@earthlink.net

Love is the law, love under will.
Douglas James Blake
President, Electoral College
O.T.O. USA

NOTOCON 2003

August 2003 celebrated the fourth biannual National Ordo Templi Orientis Conference, NOTOCON. The dedicated brothers and sisters of Portland, Oregon hosted the conference once more and it was a great success. *Agapé* vol. 1, no. 1, featured a review of the 1997 NOTOCON by a Minerval Brother. Since a Minerval is relatively new to the order they are perfect for giving a fresh look at the event. We also wanted to expand this review by adding the perspective of a long-time member of the order who was attending the conference for the first time. We hope this will help those who were not able to attend to get a glimpse of what takes place when 200+ O.T.O. members converge for one weekend. —Ed.

Minerval on a Mission

by Sara Aronson

At this year's NOTOCON, I was a Minerval on a mission. I traveled over two thousand miles, determined to experience everything the senses would allow. In a way, it was a reconnaissance mission, aimed to find out as much as possible about all the strange and magnificent people I had become involved with in the O.T.O. The theme for NOTOCON 2003 was "Initiation," but for me, it was more reality than theme. This was the first time I understood that the Order is bigger than my local body; the first time I grasped my place in the international O.T.O. tribe. From around the U.S. and from places as far away as Australia and the Netherlands, people were drawn to this gathering in Oregon. When I arrived in Portland, I was awed to find people who I could immediately establish a connection with, and was greeted by people who, sight unseen, were offering me hospitality in their home.

My initial evening there, Sekhet-Maat Lodge held an art show in a temple space unlike any I had ever seen before. It was the thriving manifestation of local members' sustained love and devotion, a monument to what people in the Order can do and a hint of the "temples of gold and ivory" yet to come. But, even more awaited me at the conference venue, where lush grounds landscaped with richly colored flowers beckoned guests to take a stroll. The buildings, renovated in the 1990s from a closed down nursing home, were covered from the rafters to the baseboards with murals and folk art ranging in subject matter from kitty tarot card interpretations to Hindu-like deities wrapped around an exit sign. At this secluded country spot, hundreds of people who, anywhere else, would have been in a minority, gathered together in love under will. Other guests would call U.S. over to ask questions about the conference, their curiosity fueled by drinks from the Edgefield's brewery. "This doesn't look like any fraternity I've ever seen before," one said to me. Another thought for a moment, commenting that our group seemed particularly cohesive and happy.

We sat at white tables on immaculate green grass for opening remarks as laughter leaped from pockets of conversation. Festivities ebbed and flowed across the resort until the night gave way to the gentle radiance of dawn. Happy yet exhausted, I made my daily offerings to the gods of good hygiene and headed up the dewy hill to Blackberry Hall for morning devotionals. Loraia Ward (Soror Ashera) guided a Kundalini movement meditation, taking participants through an hour-long process of shaking, shimmying, and shivering every nerve

ending of our bodies awake after a night with too little sleep. Refreshed, I headed off to the first day of classes and lectures.

Lon Milo DuQuette regaled U.S. with tales from his first days in the Order and his experiences with Grady McMurtry, punctuating each story with the mantra, "Survival is the first and last ordeal of initiation." It was interesting to hear Lon, as well as other speakers, identify initiation as something that can happen outside of a formal ceremony, in aspects of so-called mundane life that one wouldn't necessarily be able to anticipate. Between listening to his accounts of the "Grady days" and attending Richard Kaczynski's presentation of his historical Crowley research, I gained a sense of heritage. I began to feel like a part of something that had existed before me, and, when watching the parents at the conference hold their children in their arms, I felt that this was a movement which would endure after me, as well.

From Lon's talk, I ventured to the vending room, where stained-glass lamens sat next to swords, shirts, books, CDs, videos, and other delightful Thelemic goodies. Then, it was time for Merrill Ward's (Fr. Hrumachis) dazzling "Ash Qadosh" presentation, where he demonstrated a rousing fusion of ritual, performance art, and instruction exceptionally appropriate for the topic of initiation. When his spell ended, I watched with humor as the next presenters enacted a ceremony called the *Novittate Ritual*, which Crowley had written before refining his vision into the current incarnation of the Minerval initiation. Listening to choruses of laughter during portions of the ritual, I gained a new appreciation for the sophistication of the Order I was involved with and the initiations it offers.

That night, everyone gathered for the formal banquet in their various finery of suits, saris, kilts, and evening gowns. It was empowering to be part of all the initiates coming together in health and wealth, joy and well-being, to celebrate in our temporary little corner of Pacific Northwest paradise. I thought to myself, is this not what Agape stands for? Was I, in this beaming moment of fraternity, a part of Agape become manifest? Surrounded by people I regarded as friends and brethren, I realized that they were the embodiment of what Thelema signifies to me, a living meaning as evocative to me as any holy text.

A common thread tied U.S. all together, weaving U.S. all into a great tapestry of the new Aeon. Yet, each one of U.S. brought our own nuances and expressed our joint ideals in unique ways. It was never as readily apparent to me as during

Sunday's Gnostic Mass, when the two hundred voices which had merged together for the Creed, each, with their different accents and intonations, individually proclaimed, "There is no part of me that is not of the Gods." As I heard similar ideas repeated by speakers and fellow attendees throughout the conference, I began to understand that these variations are reflections

An Old Newbie at NOTOCON

by Craig Berry

I have been a member of O.T.O. since 1987, which puts me in a strange middle position in the Order seniority chain. In general, the Great Old Ones of O.T.O. are counted as those who were in the O.T.O. under Hymenaeus Alpha. I missed that period, but only by less than two years. I've seen more of O.T.O. history first hand than most, but there are still quite a number of our founding stories that are as much received oral history to me as to the newest Minerval. This gives me an interesting perspective on the Order, intermediate between familiarity and wonder. It's a rather pleasant view.

Although NOTOCON was held three times prior to Portland 2003, I never made it to any of them, not even the Long Beach 2001 event, practically in my back yard. Despite my best intentions and fondest hopes, fate always intervened, often at the last minute, and prevented me from attending. Therefore, in the months and weeks leading up to Portland, I found myself carefully avoiding too much hope, becoming too attached to the idea of being there with (as I'm fond of saying) "two hundred of my best friends." The hurt would be too great if I were once again prevented from being there, so I had to keep it at arm's length.

This detachment was made especially difficult by my deep involvement with preparations for the event. In the Fall of 2002, nearly a year before NOTOCON, I volunteered to run the website (www.NOTOCON.org) and to help build and operate its online registration system. Doing this job involved working very closely with both the site and national NOTOCON crews, most of whom I did not meet in the flesh until I arrived at the Edgefield. Modern technology can lead to some very surreal experiences; being gang-hugged by a group of beautiful women you've never seen before has to rank near the top of the list.

As for my experiences at NOTOCON itself, words all but fail me. The presentations were brilliant and funny and insightful by turns, the dinner time talks witty and inspiring, the venue itself almost dreamlike, every surface covered with strange and wonderful art. Oh, and there seemed to be a tiny but welcoming bar in every building, and hidden in every corner of the grounds, and they have a wonderful microbrewery; that certainly didn't hurt my impression of the weekend.

A few memories stand out as especially high points. The working of the obsolete *Novitiate Ritual* of the O.T.O. was an object lesson in how far off the path you can get just before everything suddenly comes together perfectly. (A particular prop from that ritual, nicknamed "Moby," will someday assume a prominent place in the legends of our Order.) Sabazius's Key-note Joke launched an entirely new field of pattern-joke development: "A Hermit, a Lover, and a Man of Earth..." Sitting on a

hill at night, listening to my tribe drumming and dancing in the darkness below, is not something I will soon forget. And Lon Duquette's relation of what it was like to bootstrap our Order from a handful of devoted survivors of the Crowley era to a worldwide organization of thousands was even more inspirational than it was funny, and that's saying something. Hearing eighty people snap out a razor-sharp round of O.T.O. applause in salute to Hymenaeus Alpha, when I've seldom heard four people hit it that crisply, put a sizeable lump in my throat.

But more than anything else, for me the entire weekend was about returning to the fountainhead, experiencing the lifeblood of our Order: its members. Both old friends I had not seen in a decade and new ones I happened to sit next to for a presentation radiated their happiness and energy. If I had to sum up my feelings in a single word, that word would be "home."

As many of you probably know, I am the webmaster for U.S. Grand Lodge; I end up doing a lot of other G.L. work as well. Nearly all of this work is conducted by email and phone, and a depressing amount of it is dry and often annoying. There is a karma-yoga satisfaction in doing this work well, but it can still drain my enthusiasm over time. Gradually, I have learned how to recognize when this is happening and what to do about it—I find the time in my crammed schedule to do the root work of our Order, working on Masses and initiations and teaching classes at my local body. Invariably, I get the fire back very quickly; it's like plugging into the wire that carries the current of our Order.

The entire NOTOCON weekend had that effect on me, but by far the most energizing experience was the Gnostic Mass on Sunday afternoon. Beyond the beauty of the ceremony itself, beyond the spectacle of (finally!) seeing the Mass performed in a room large enough to house it comfortably, beyond even the soul-stirring sound of a congregation of two hundred roaring as one that "Love is the law, love under will," the portion of the Mass that reduced me to elated tears was the Communion. I happened to be among the last to communicate, so I had plenty of time to sit, eyes closed, and listen as each person spoke the words "There is no part of me that is not of the Gods." It's a simple enough sentence, yet every single voice said it distinctly; different accents, different emphases, different pacing and pitch, two hundred different ways to declare what we all share. The beautiful image of the tapestry of the O.T.O. from the conclusion of Liber CXCIV has never been made more manifest. I always know it in my head, but at that Mass, and at NOTOCON, my heart knew that the O.T.O. is my home. And that knowledge will carry me through many lonely journeys.

I will not be missing NOTOCON again.

Local Body Reports

Sekhet Bast Ra Lodge Oklahoma City, OK

Sekhet Bast Ra was founded on August 11, 1984 and we getting ready to celebrate our twentieth year as an O.T.O. body. Originally started by Jeff Hunter, the body has had a number of successful mastership transfers. After Jeff, Scott & Lisa C. were joint masters, and then Lisa C. solely took the reigns when Brother Scott C. was appointed Grand Secretary General of U.S. Grand Lodge. Now the body is once more on the verge of mastership change. Tentatively Lisa C. will be transferring the body to Molly Ware pending E.C. approval.

In the near twenty years of existence, the body has done much to further the Order in the Oklahoma area. The body has long offered numerous and varied classes, performed the *Rite of Eleusis* multiple times, offered the Gnostic Mass including a special Champagne New Years Mass, and preformed initiations from Minerval to 4th & P.I. Currently the lodge—with 36 members, 15 very active—is offering classes in Qabalah, basic magick, ritual, and Goetia. The Gnostic Mass is performed bimonthly.

The members are also becoming very involved with the local nature-based, metaphysical and esoteric community. SBR will be performing a public Gnostic Mass for the community celebration of the Autumnal Equinox on September 21, and two of the Lodge members hold positions on the Deep Root Community Center board. We hope to assist in promoting awareness,

education, and tolerance in and about our community, as well as establish an actual community center.

In addition, we want to congratulate SBR member, Dann Buchanan on his appointment to the Electoral College earlier this year. Congratulations Dann!

SBR has been a great, flourishing resource to the O.T.O. members in the Oklahoma area for the last 20 years and we look forward to another successful 20 years!

Hagia Sophia Chapter R+C Atlanta, Georgia

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

Hagia Sophia Chapter R+C had its first meeting in Atlanta since the Chapter had a new High Priestess appointed. Many members from both Georgia and Alabama met for a day of feasting, fraternity and Chapter business.

At the meeting officers were selected for positions, the committee of four was established, the meeting schedule was determined and an outline of future activity was created. The next meeting will be held in the first part of September in Birmingham, Alabama.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chapter members visited the bodymaster of Dove & Serpent Oasis at its recently acquired temple space. The Chapter looks forward to assisting the Man of Earth in the Southeast and helping the Order through the principles of beauty, harmony and love.

Anyone wishing to contact the Chapter should email the Chapter Secretary, John Crow, at jcrow@thelema.nu.

Love is the law, love under will.

In addition, future issues will have a series of questions and answers with various Grand Lodge officers including the National Grand Master General, The Head of the Grand Tribunal, The President of the Electoral College, and other prominent members of the Order. If you have any questions you would like answered in *Agapé*, please send them to the editor.

Lastly, we request all local bodies and Chapters to submit local body reports. These reports are the best way to advertise what makes your body unique and to promote your significant accomplishments. Please submit your reports to the editor via mail or email.

In Memoriam



Tim Maroney

Tim Maroney died suddenly on July 3, 2003 at his home in Berkeley, CA, of cardiopulmonary failure. He was 41 years old.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, he later did graduate studies in computer science at UNC-Chapel Hill. He worked as a software editor at Adobe Systems in San Jose, CA.

For over two decades Tim explored and wrote about mystical traditions from a post-syncretic viewpoint. His USENET messages in the early 1980s were the precursor to mid-1990s debates about neo-Satanic spiritual schools, pagan history and Aleister Crowley's legacy.

Some of Tim's best writings focus on the limits of belief systems, gender debates in Thelemic circles, and the role of spiritual communities. Tim also contributed several essays to the late *Gnosis Magazine*. His first book was *The Book of Dyzan* (Chaosium Inc., 2000). Tim's essay *Introduction to Crowley* will be published later this year in Richard Metzger's forthcoming occult anthology *Disinformation's Book of Lies*.

A member of O.T.O. for over two decades, Tim participated in activities in the Bay Area and Austin, Texas, before becoming the Deputy Master of Mons Abieg-nus Oasis in Marin County, where he was an ordained and active priest of E.G.C.

Survivors include his parents, John and Patricia Maroney of Chapel Hill; a brother, Kevin of Yonkers, N.Y.; a sister, Terry, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; a grandmother, Elita Crow of Homestead, Fla. and fiancée, Kat Sanborn of Berkeley.

Note from the Editor

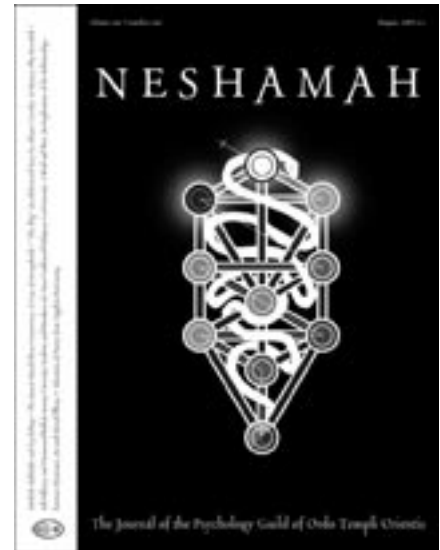
As *Agapé* grows, we would like to offer more material written by the membership at large. If you have an idea for an essay, poem, ritual, etc. that you would like included, please contact the editor (see the colophon for contact info). We will not accept essays/articles that have already been published in other mediums, including local newsletters or on the web. Please note that inclusion is determined by a number of factors including content quality, space, and topic. Submission does not guarantee inclusion.

New Psychology Guild Newsletter

The Psychology Guild of Ordo Templi Orientis has recently published the first edition of its journal, NESHAMAH. This journal includes a diverse collection of articles on such topics as Qabalistic Psychology, the "Satanic Ritual Abuse" controversy, and many others. Initial reaction to the journal, which had its premiere at NOTOCON 2003, was very enthusiastic. The journal may be ordered for \$7 plus \$1 shipping from Psychology Guild President David Shoemaker at the following address: P.O. Box 58, Carmichael, CA 95609.

Make checks or money orders payable to David Shoemaker, or use Paypal with the email address below.

The O.T.O. Psychology Guild was founded approximately three years ago as an avenue for dissemination of research and discussion of topics related to magick, mysticism and psychology. Membership is open to O.T.O. members of First Degree and above who are psychological professionals or graduate students in such fields. Additional information and specifics regarding membership are available at their website: www.blueequinox.com/psychguild.htm, or by contacting Bro. Shoemaker at: dgsaa@winfirst.com.



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 118
MARIETTA, GA

Agape
Ordo Templi Orientis U.S.A.
P.O. Box 7045
Marietta, GA 30065