

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

# AGAPÉ

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CELEBRATING OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR



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

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**Cover:** Brother James Wasserman embodies the god Tahuti on national television. See story on page 7.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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

Care Fratres et Sorores,

As you all are doubtless aware, our last issue was late. Really late. This issue is also coming out later than any of us here at *Agapé* would like and, as editor, I would like to apologize and offer some words of explanation.

Putting together a publication like this involves many people. Aside from the regular staff there are also the many brothers and sisters who contribute material to each issue (and without whom there would be no issues). While we all strive to do the most “professional” job we can, not a single one of us receives any pay for our work. That “rich man from the west” we hear about in *Liber AL* has yet to appear and pour out his gold upon us. This means we have to fit our work for *Agapé* in around our actual day jobs and our local or national work for the Order (nobody gets paid for *that* either), not to mention whatever familial responsibilities we may have (I just acquired some of those myself this year—see the last entry on page 14). So its normal for nearly everything from submissions to editing to proofreading to verifying permissions to suffer delays, and all those delays add up.

We deal with these things every issue of course, and I do think we manage to sort out the various complications and deliver a great publication to you in a reasonable amount of time. Unfortunately with the summer issue we ran into a totally unavoidable delay in the production end. Sister Marlene very generously arranges for *Agapé* to be printed at cost at her place of employment. The drawback being that it has to be done when there is a lull in paying work. Normally this happens in about a week or so, but this fall there was no lull. In fact her shop was doing record business with all employees working double shifts and they were still turning away jobs. Good for the business of course, but not so good for getting *Agapé* into your hands. The issue came out eventually, but much later than it should have. We grovel.

Obviously we would prefer that such a long delay not happen again. We’re going to do what we can to tighten up the schedule on the editorial end. This will be greatly facilitated by the fact that incoming material is now a steady stream, and that submissions have increased both in quality and quantity. That is entirely *your* doing, you initiates of our most holy Order, and the *Agapé* team is proud to serve you all. You keep sending it in and we’ll keep printing it.

*Love is the law, love under will.*

Fraternally,  
Frater Julianus  
Editor, *Agapé*

## FROM THE GRAND MASTER

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

### TRANSITIONS

Report has come to us of the death of James Thomas Graeb, former member of the Sovereign Sanctuary of Ordo Templi Orientis. An attorney, Graeb assisted the Order to draft its first set of Bylaws, and he helped to incorporate the Order in California in 1979 EV. He oversaw the election of Hymenæus Beta as Caliph in 1985 EV.

His relationship with the Order deteriorated in the 1990s, and he was expelled by the Supreme Council in 2004 EV. He died of a heart attack on July 26, at the age of 58. May he be granted the accomplishment of his will.

### MAN OF EARTH DELEGATE

#### SELECTION: UPDATE

I am pleased to announce that the Man of Earth (M.O.E.) Delegate Nominating Panel is now fully operational and is accepting applications from O.T.O. initiates of the II° who are interested in volunteering as Man of Earth Delegates to speak on behalf of the entire Man of Earth Triad in accordance with *Liber CXCIV*.

The recently created M.O.E. Delegate Nominating Panel, currently comprising 30 representatives from across the United States, has been diligently working with me to create a seamless selection process of the four Man of Earth Delegates to provide the Man of Earth Triad with a strong voice within Ordo Templi Orientis.

If you are interested in applying for a Man of Earth Delegate position, please contact your current local body Nominating Panel Representative for more information and an application packet. You may also contact the Nominating Panel Secretary, Frater Erebus, at [salemmagick15@yahoo.com](mailto:salemmagick15@yahoo.com). Completed applications should be presented to the Nominating Panel Secretary for review and processing.

For inquiries concerning the new M.O.E. Delegate selection process and general structure of the Nominating Panel, please contact the Nominating Panel Chairman, Frater Kakoupat, at [kakoupat@gmail.com](mailto:kakoupat@gmail.com).

Invitations have been sent to all forty-eight local bodies within the United States asking each to provide a Nominating Panel Representative to sit on the U.S. Grand Lodge M.O.E. Delegate Nominating Panel to effect a more democratic selection process of the four M.O.E. Delegates—two men and two women. These Nominating Panel Representatives not only help to select the four delegates but act as contact points at each local body for this important program. The Nominating Panel continues to welcome appointments of Nominating Panel Representatives from all local bodies. Please contact the Nominating Panel Secretary for more information.

### GNOSTIC MASS AT BURNING MAN

Eight Members of O.T.O. from across the west coast attended this year's Burning Man Festival in the Black Rock Desert of Nevada and celebrated the Gnostic Mass for the first time on the playa of Black Rock City. Collectively we performed three rigorously-executed Masses (on August 28th, 29th, and 30th) and administered the virtues to over 40 congregants.

The Masses were celebrated in conjunction with Sacred Spaces Village, a long-standing theme camp at the Burning Man event, which has been organized for the last several years by our Sister Sophia Veleda from San Francisco. The effort was spearheaded, organized, and supervised by Bishop T Apollyon and Brother Raphael Aguilar under the auspices of O.T.O. U.S. Grand Lodge at my request. Members who participated directly in these celebrations included T Apollyon (Priest and Deacon) of Sekhet-Maat Lodge, Soror Himiko (Priestess and Deacon) and Frater Divya (Priest and Positive Child) of Star Sapphire Lodge, Sister Amy Phillips (Priestess and Negative Child) of Horizon Lodge, Brother Mark Shekoyan (Deacon) of Blazing Star Oasis, and Brothers Jade (Negative Child), Michael (Positive and Negative Child) and Steven (Positive Child)—all new Minervals from 418 Lodge.

The Gnostic Mass Temple was the centerpiece of the Rubedo Temple, one of four alchemically themed 32-foot geodesic dome Temple spaces that framed the main central courtyard of Sacred Spaces Village, which was one of this year's most visited and high profile theme camps. The Temple setup was primarily transported and provided by T Apollyon who is reportedly still shaking playa dust out of his altar clothes and will likely be doing so for some time to come.

Many thanks are due to the team members and to Sister Sophia Veleda (Blazing Star Oasis) and Soror Lilya, Master of Star Sapphire Lodge for their encouragement and support. Special thanks also go out to PeaceMan of Sacred Spaces Village for his tireless energy, and to our friends Mar Rickets, Jonah, and the entire build team at Guild Works of Portland, Oregon, who not only set up the domes and courtyard but also were essential in setting up our veil structure.

Thanks also to all those members and friends of the Order who supported our efforts both through their encouragement and financially through our Indiegogo fundraising efforts that assisted us greatly in bringing this group effort into brilliant manifestation.

### PRISON MINISTRY

The Prison Ministry Advisory Panel is compiling a list of state-by-state online search tools for inmate records and sex offender registries for the use of official local bodies. These

*Continued on next page* ∞

can be used by masters of local bodies for advance screening of inquiries. Contact Frater Apollonius (see page 15) for further information.

### NON-CONSENSUAL SEXUAL CONDUCT

This is a reminder that U.S. Grand Lodge does not tolerate rape or any form of non-consensual sexual conduct or sexual harassment by or upon its members.

The following statement is from our *Minerval Guide*:

As expressed in *Liber CI*, the Order exists in part to foster free and joyful relations between its members. However, sexual conduct that is not between fully consenting adults is antithetical to freedom and is not tolerated in O.T.O.

Freedom has no room for coercion, and refusing an unwanted sexual advance is not “un-Thelemic.” No O.T.O. member should ever be forced, pressured, or made to feel obligated to have sexual relations with any other O.T.O. member, for any reason.

We also published a detailed policy statement on sexual harassment in *Agapé* Volume V, Number 3-4 (October 2003-Feb 2004 EV). A revised, more detailed version of this policy statement will be included in the next version of the *Camp, Oasis and Lodge Master's Handbook* (the C.O.L.M.H.).

All members—women and men—who find themselves victims of non-consensual sexual conduct, are urged to report the incident to the master of their local body as soon as possible. If, for some reason, reporting to the local master is out of the question, or has no effect, then the incident should be reported directly to the U.S.G.L. Ombudsman at [ombudsman@oto-usa.org](mailto:ombudsman@oto-usa.org).

Officers of Local Bodies are *always* to take such complaints seriously, investigate them, and report them to a Sovereign Grand Inspector General. They should take local action, such as Notice, in minor cases where the S.G.I.G. agrees that local action is appropriate. Where local action is insufficient, the S.G.I.G. shall take additional action, which may include formal disciplinary action.

Since we do not have our own police force, the kinds of actions we are capable of taking within O.T.O. may not be sufficient to ensure the physical safety of a victim of rape or other serious assault. Even expulsion from Order membership does not make a person vanish from the planet. In such cases,

the master of the local body should assist the victim in notifying the appropriate authorities and obtaining suitable legal counsel. U.S.G.L. has additional resources for this—contact an S.G.I.G. if these are needed.

Also, I would like to appeal to the membership in general not to ostracize members who come forward with legitimate complaints about sexual misconduct by other members or friends, however well-liked those other individuals may be at the time. Doing so constitutes blaming of the victim, and simply creates an environment where victims will be *afraid* to report sexual misconduct—which can lead to an escalation of such misconduct.

As a local body, as a Grand Lodge, as an Order, we need to be united in the goal of creating and nurturing an environment where free relations between our brothers and sisters can be enjoyed without fear.

Over the past several months, since I began posting about this issue on my blog, I have received several reports from women who have been subjected to violence within some kind of an O.T.O. context in the past. One of these women told me that she had been in touch with several other sisters who never reported their mistreatment, and saw no reason to now because their attackers were no longer active members. Others reported that when they attempted to discuss their troubles with their brothers and sisters, attempts were made to either ignore or excuse the bad behavior, occasionally offering such quotes as “There is no guilt” as if that were an excuse for assaulting someone. This is simply unacceptable.

I'd like to make a few things clear.

- Assault is something we, as a community, should not be tolerating or excusing.
- Assault is assault. It doesn't matter if the victim is the perpetrator's wife or husband. It doesn't matter if the victim is a non-member.
- Proportional self-defense against a credible and imminent physical threat of violence or non-consensual sexual conduct is not an unfraternal or “un-Thelemic” act. You have permission to resist, if you can.
- As a community, it reflects badly on ALL of us when one of our members physically attacks someone—especially if we do nothing and say nothing about it.
- Regret is not an excuse.
- In many cases, effective treatment and counseling is available for individuals who have trouble managing their anger issues—but such treatment will be of no use if the violent behavior is simply neglected.

*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, discus-



sions, and 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).

- Inactive members forfeit all their membership rights and privileges, including the right to call themselves members; however, they can re-activate simply by paying twice their last dues rate—*unless* they are on bad report. It is possible to place non-members and inactive members on bad report, for cause, to prevent them from re-activating. If there *is* such cause, we need to know about it. Please tell us.
- U.S.G.L. has in-house counseling resources that are available to members on a limited basis who have been victims of assault, should they desire to use them. The Ombudsman can make the necessary referrals. I have had several individuals volunteer over the last few days to help provide such resources. If you would like to volunteer to help with this, please write to the Volunteer Coordinator ([volunteers@oto-usa.org](mailto:volunteers@oto-usa.org)).

*Love is the law, love under will.*



Fraternally,  
Sabazius

## FROM THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

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

The Electoral College, at its **Fall meeting**, held on October 6th, 2012 EV, took the following actions concerning duties in its charge:

### Local Body Closures

None.

### Change of Body Status

Mithras Encampment in the Valley of Windham, Connecticut was rechartered as Mithras Oasis with Frater Pantha as Master effective October 6th, 2012 EV.

### Change of Body Masters

Mastership of Knights Templar Oasis in the Valley of Salem, Massachusetts was transferred from Brother Steven Ryan to Brother Joseph Shepard effective October 6th, 2012 EV.

Mastership of Thelesis Lodge in the Valley of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was transferred from Frater Lux ad Mundi to Frater AK effective October 6th, 2012 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.

### 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 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 page 15 for contact information.

### SANCTION FOR APPEAL

Brothers or sisters of our order who wish to pursue appeal of 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 CXCV*, section 16) via email links found at:

[ec.oto-usa.org/Ecelectors.html](http://ec.oto-usa.org/Ecelectors.html).

### HOSTING

#### ELECTORAL COLLEGE MEETINGS

Local bodies that are interested in hosting meetings of the Electoral College are encouraged to write the President of the E.C. See page 15 for contact information.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Electoral College, to thank the master and members of Sekhet-Maat Lodge in the Valley of Portland, Oregon for their excellent hospitality in hosting our Fall meeting.

### UPCOMING

#### ELECTORAL COLLEGE MEETINGS

- The Winter 2013 EV Electoral College meeting is to be held on Saturday, January 12th via online medium.

*Continued on next page* ∞

- The Spring 2014 EV Electoral College meeting is to be held on Saturday, April 20th, hosted by Heru-Behutet Oasis in the Valley of Kansas City, Missouri.
- The Summer 2014 EV Electoral College meeting is to be held in conjunction with NOTOCON, hosted by 418 Lodge in the Valley of Sacramento, California.

The deadline for submission of items to be considered (for the Winter 2013 meeting) is December 15th, 2012 EV. Please mail submissions to the Secretary of the Electoral College. See page 15 for contact information.

### ATTENDING ELECTORAL COLLEGE 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.

### FORMS

Masters of local bodies seeking up-to-date forms for the Annual Report, 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).

### ELECTORAL COLLEGE WEBSITE

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

### COMMUNICATION WITH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

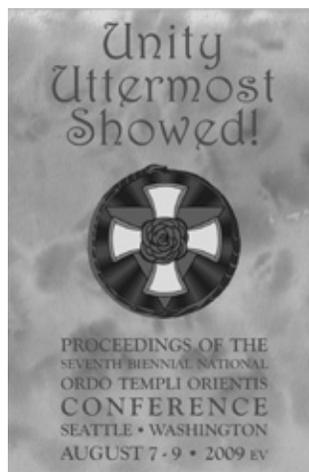
I would like to invite any initiates with specific concerns or questions regarding the operation of the Electoral College, to write to either the President or Secretary of the E.C. For contact information, please see page 15.

It is my goal as President of the Electoral College to take effective measures bringing about better communication between the E.C. and the membership of all local bodies. Any input provided to this end is warmly welcomed. I believe that communication is of benefit to the entire order in our mutual goals and aspiration toward enlightenment in all forms. All postal mail correspondence with the Electoral College Secretary should be sent to the address listed on page 15.

*Love is the law, love under will.*

In the Bonds of the Order,  
Dnn Bvchnn  
President, Electoral College  
O.T.O. U.S.A.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS BOOKS



**UNITY UTTERMOST  
SHOWED!  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
SEVENTH BIENNIAL  
NATIONAL ORDO  
TEMPLI ORIENTIS  
CONFERENCE:  
SEATTLE,  
WASHINGTON,  
AUGUST 7-9, 2009 EV**  
United States Grand  
Lodge, O.T.O.,  
2011 EV

*Unity Uttermost Showed!* offers a selection of papers from the seventh biennial National Ordo Templi Orientis Conference (NOTOCON) of the United States Grand Lodge of O.T.O., held in the Valley of Seattle, Washington, in 2009 EV. The papers cover diverse topics including Enochian magick, sacrifice in Aztec mythology, the sacred geometry of an astral cathedral, producing ritual theater, personal responsibility in magick, promulgation of the Law of Thelema, textual analysis of *The Book of the Law*, and more. Other highlights include the original ritual, the "Feast of Babalon," and the address given by U.S. National Grand Master Sabazius.

### STILL AVAILABLE:

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

United States Grand Lodge,  
O.T.O., 2009 EV



Includes addresses and articles by Sabazius X°, Richard Kaczynski, Lon Milo DuQuette, James and Nancy Wasserman, Dionysius Rogers, Frater Hrumachis, and many Others of equal Merit, if less Fame.

Both collections are available from  
[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and [CreateSpace.com](http://CreateSpace.com).

## SWIRLING STAR LODGE AND SECRETS OF SECRET SOCIETIES

By Sister Shelley Marmor

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

[On Sunday, October 14th 2012 EV, the Discovery Channel broadcast an hour-long documentary titled *Secrets of Secret Societies*. Aside from segments on Freemasonry, the Bohemian Grove, and the Bilderbergers, it included interviews with members of Ordo Templi Orientis and closed with a full performance of Liber Israfel, the invocation of Thoth, by members of Swirling Star Lodge in Miami, Florida. Here Swirling Star's secretary tells how it came about and what it was like to do ritual Magick on national television.]



Photo courtesy of Discovery Channel

In short, no, it was not an easy decision to sign up to be on a nationally-televised broadcast wearing a white robe and participating in a magical ritual.

The 22 on-camera participants all knew that agreeing to appear in a documentary about secret societies could go horribly awry. We all knew we would have no control over the editing, the voice-overs, the possible sensationalism... and we all knew that people would see it: relatives, co-workers, acquaintances, friends, enemies, and our fellow O.T.O. initiates.

Swirling Star Lodge is in Florida, and Florida is in the South—a place not known for its tolerance or progressive thinking in most arenas. I think I speak for the entire body when I say we value our privacy, in and out of the O.T.O., because we do not have the “different is cool” luxury that members in more forward-thinking locations have.

Having said that, how did those of us who appeared on camera justify such a decision? Easy. We made it our intention to promulgate the Law of Thelema and accomplish the Great Work.

In the end, this broadcast became no different than putting up flyers in a coffee shop or bookstore, updating our website or having a Yahoo group—except with an audience of millions from all over the world. The pros completely enveloped the cons. We leapt like Fools!

Since the broadcast of *Secrets of Secret Societies* about a month before this article was written, a few people have con-

tacted Swirling Star wanting to attend the Gnostic Mass. They said they saw the program on TV. I believe this is proof of our success, and a testament to the maxim that only great risks will reap great rewards.

This story actually began in January 2012 EV when John H. Marks, a writer/producer for the Discovery Channel, contacted Brother James Was-

erman. John is also the author of *Reasons to Believe: One Man's Journey Among the Evangelicals and the Faith He Left Behind*, a former correspondent for *U.S. News and World Report*, as well as a producer for *60 Minutes*.

He reached Jim through author Mark Stavish, director of the Institute for Hermetic Studies. John was interested in secret societies and wanted to film a ritual for inclusion in a documentary he was producing. He and Jim developed a rapport that became stronger as time went on.

Jim also introduced John to Daniel Pineda, Swirling Star Lodge's Deputy Master, and author of *The Book of Secrets*. Daniel appeared on *Secrets of Secret Societies*, both in an interview segment and as a ritualist.

“When you, first as an individual and then as a lodge, take full responsibility for the promulgation of the Law of Thelema and the spiritual integrity of the order, great things can happen,” said Daniel.

Swirling Star Lodge's Master, Frater ASiF, met with the crew in the early discussion phase to “get a feel for their vision.”

“I felt that John had a sincere interest in capturing something real and presenting it on a nationwide level, as opposed to fishing for a sensationalist topic to gather ratings,” said Frater ASiF. “From then on I intuitively felt that we were in good hands and that this could place the Order in the proper light where we belong, and out of the ill-reputed shadows much of the media has put Crowley and the O.T.O. in.”

After some discussion, the senior initiates of the lodge came to a unanimous decision to participate in the documen-

*Continued on next page* ~

tary. The Grand Master and Public Information Officer supported our decision to proceed.

“Everyone agreed that in tightly-controlled circumstances it could work,” said Jim.

The ritualists and other participants were selected. Everyone who would appear on camera signed a confidentiality agreement and release before the filming on April 22, 2012.

Coming to a mutual agreement in regards to the paperwork was one of the bigger obstacles to participating in this documentary. The first contract sent for review included a standard stipulation in the world of film production: it stated that the network could use the footage in other broadcasts. This was unacceptable.

“For one who survived the 1980s era of cult cops, Geraldo Rivera, the McMartin Preschool travesty, *Michelle Remembers*, and the rest, that was not an option; sorry,” said Jim.

The contract went back and forth for months. In the end, we received an addendum to the release that stated the footage could not be used for anything else.

We first offered to let John film a Gnostic Mass. We would allow him to interrupt the ritual, take alternate shots, adjust for lightning and sound and have the participants repeat motions as needed. However, he said that since there are already several YouTube videos of the Mass, that wouldn't work.

John wanted to feature a ritual that had never been filmed before. That is one reason Liber Israfel was selected. While it is by no means a “secret” ritual, nor even an O.T.O. ritual per se, it fit the bill for one that had never been filmed.

“Doing Liber Israfel would, of necessity, alter any plans we might have had for a ‘walkthrough’ performance,” said Jim. “I explained to [John] that he and his crew would be participant/observers; that he was asking to attend a real ritual; there would be no interruptions; that I would not dare play games with Tahuti. He was tantalized, to put it mildly.”

Nearly a decade prior to this filming, Nancy and Jim Wasserman performed Liber Israfel in heavy costume in 2004 for the 25th anniversary of TAHUTI Lodge under intensely controlled conditions with a fully robed audience of dues-current members only. Even their daughter was not allowed to attend.

This time would be a little different. This time there were

non-magical folks present, with a non-magical agenda. Our challenge as a group of magicians was to be able to perform a full-blown invocation without allowing ourselves to be distracted.

The rite was filmed at a large, professional sound stage in Miami rather than the Swirling Star Temple. This allowed the crew the greatest flexibility for light, sound, and photographic access. The crew remained outside the Temple proper, silently and unobtrusively shooting through curtains. If they had to enter the space, they removed their shoes.

“Without the personal trust and friendship that Jim and the rest of Swirling Star Lodge developed with Mr. [John] Marks and his crew, I don't believe that our little experiment would have gone very well,” said Daniel.

Luckily for us, we have several members who are well-networked in the world of film production. Frater SOLhA-

DON did an incredible job of managing the entire operation from a technical perspective, including acting as a liaison between the film crew and the Order participants. Without his skills, this could not have happened. Soror Gammadion and Frater Erectvs were also instrumental behind the scenes.

The ritual began with myself admitting everyone

to the Temple and then anointing each person. Frater HoorAit-zon did the Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram. Soror Ouroboros did the Star Ruby. Frater ASIF led the group in chanting and breathing. Daniel performed Liber V vel Reguli and the opening banishing of Liber Israfel. Jim invoked Tahuti [see photo on previous page]. Nancy invoked Isis [see photo this page]. At the conclusion of the ritual, I guided everyone silently out of the Temple. The crew filmed everything without interruption in one take.

“I believe this is the first full-blown invocation that has ever been filmed for broadcast,” said Jim. “I further believe Swirling Star Lodge has made religious history. We wanted to offer a worldwide the opportunity to witness Gnosis—apothecosis, the becoming one with the Gods, walking briefly in Their company by inflaming ourselves in prayer.”

We believe we succeeded.

*[If you missed the original broadcast, Secrets of Secret Societies is available for viewing on YouTube. At this time we do not know if the program will be released on DVD.]*



Photo courtesy of Discovery Channel

*Love is the law, love under will.*

# MEDICINE OF METALS AND STONE OF THE WISE: AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE LESSER BANISHING RITUAL OF THE PENTAGRAM

by Brother Jay M. Lee

[PART ONE]

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

## INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram (L.B.R.P.) was first developed for use within the Neophyte Grade of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn.<sup>2</sup> Its origins are not known, but the inspiration for the ritual may have come from a passage in Eliphas Lévi's *Transcendental Magic*.<sup>3</sup> Another theory traces it to a medieval Jewish bedtime prayer or even earlier:

One of [the] constituents [of the night prayer] invokes the protection of the angels: "at my right hand Michael, at my left Gabriel, before me Uriel, behind me Raphael." This is nothing more than a Jewish version of the ancient Babylonian incantation, "Shamash before me, behind me Sin, Nergal at my right, the good Lamassu at my left," etc.<sup>4</sup>

To Magicians, however, the L.B.R.P. is more than a "now I lay me down to sleep" prayer.

Daily practice of the L.B.R.P. is one of the two recommended means by which a person can condition the aura. "Its main point is to establish in the Astral four Pentagrams, one in each quarter, and two Hexagrams, one above, the other below, thus enclosing the Magician, as it were, in a consecrated box. It also places in his Aura the Divine Names invoked."<sup>5</sup> The idea of a consecrated box is also a clue to the greater power of this ritual.

Crowley first published a poetical version of the Lesser Ritual of the Pentagram in *The Soul of Osiris* (1901) as "The Temple of the World." He reprinted the poem in the first volume of his *Collected Works* (1905), adding commentary that makes the reference to the ritual overt. Thus, the first published version of the complete ritual is as follows:

- (i.) Touching the forehead, say Ateh (Unto Thee).
- (ii.) Touching the breast, say Malkuth (the Kingdom).
- (iii.) Touching the right shoulder, say ve-Geburah (and the Power).
- (iv.) Touching the left shoulder, say ve-Gedulah (and the Glory).
- (v.) Clasping the hands upon the breast, say le-Olahm, Amen (to the Ages, Amen).

- (vi.) Turning to the East, make a pentagram with the proper weapon. Say יהוה.
- (vii.) Turning to the South, the same, but say ארני.
- (viii.) Turning to the West, the same, but say אהיה.
- (ix.) Turning to the North, the same, but say אהיה.
- (x.) Extending the arms in the form of a cross, say—
- (xi.) Before me Raphael,
- (xii.) Behind me Gabriel,
- (xiii.) On my right hand Michael,
- (xiv.) On my left hand Auriel,
- (xv.) for about me flames the Pentagram,<sup>6</sup>
- (xvi.) and in the Column stands the six-rayed Star.
- (xvii. – xxi.) Repeat (i.) to (v.), the "Qabalistic Cross."<sup>7</sup>

Finally, he admonishes the reader, "Those who regard this ritual as a mere device to invoke or banish spirits, are unworthy to possess it. Properly understood, it is the Medicine of Metals and the Stone of the Wise."<sup>8</sup> The meaning of this cryptic warning is the subject of this essay.

Many consider the L.B.R.P. to be merely a stepping stone toward the Greater Ritual of the Pentagram and the Star Ruby. This common misconception should be avoided, as Crowley's comment warns us. But how are we to properly understand it? First, let us examine the constituent parts of the ritual.

## THE QABALISTIC CROSS

The L.B.R.P. opens and closes with the Qabalistic Cross, an incantation similar to the Lord's Prayer.<sup>9</sup> Read as a complete, albeit broken sentence, the Qabalistic Cross translates into English as "You ... Kingdom,<sup>10</sup> and Power<sup>11</sup> and Glory, forever Amen." *Amen* deserves closer scrutiny. It may be translated as "verily, it is true," but it can also be viewed as a notariqon of the phrase *Adonai Melekh Na'amon*, "my Lord, a faithful king." This is important when one considers who this Lord might be. In the 1940's, Jack Parsons taught students at the Agapé Lodge to touch their breasts and intone *Aiwass* between *Ateh* and *Malkuth*.<sup>12</sup> This tradition arose at Cefalù, where the L.B.R.P. was a standard practice.<sup>13</sup> *Aiwass*,

*Continued on next page* ∞

of course, is the name of Crowley's Holy Guardian Angel, who conveyed to him *Liber AL vel Legis* in Cairo in 1904. Thus, when he performed the L.B.R.P., he was saying, "You [are] Aiwass, a power and might and glory, forever my Lord, a faithful king." This gives a profound meaning to the Qabalistic Cross in regard to one's own Holy Guardian Angel.

When performing the L.B.R.P., it follows that each person should invoke the name of her own Holy Guardian Angel (H.G.A.). But what if the magician has yet to achieve Knowledge and Conversation? There are several options one might exercise. In the modern context, the ritual to gain Knowledge and Conversation is *Liber Samekh*, where Crowley writes in the scholion to sections G and Gg,

Until the Adept have heard that Name [of his Angel], therefore, he may not abide in the perfect possession of his Beloved. His most important task is thus to open his ears to the voice of his Angel, that he may know Him, how He is called. For hearken! this Name, understood rightly and fully, declareth the nature of the Angel in every point, wherefore also that Name is the formula of the perfection to which the Adept must aspire, and also of the power of Magick by virtue whereof he must work.

He then that is as yet ignorant of that Name, let him repeat a Word worthy of this particular ritual. Such as ABRAHADABRA, the Word of the Æon, which signifieth "The Great Work Accomplished"; and AUMGN ...; and the name of THE BEAST, for that His number showeth forth this Union with the Angel, and His Work is no other than to make all men partakers of this Mystery of the Mysteries of Magick.<sup>14</sup>

This, of course, is specifically related to *Liber Samekh*, but it may also be profitably applied to the L.B.R.P. Whereas some practitioners, such as Jack Parsons, taught the use of the name of Crowley's H.G.A., others may feel that this is inappropriate. *Why invoke someone else's H.G.A. when you haven't achieved Knowledge and Conversation with your own?*

Two other possible options are:

#### 1. *Pausing in Silence over the Anahata (Heart) Chakra*

If you do not yet know your Holy Guardian Angel's Name, you may pause over the heart silently. You may also pause silently when if you know the Name, but are performing the ritual publicly. The Name is of great importance and should be revealed to no one else.<sup>15</sup> In Crowley's Qabalistic fairy tale, *The Wake World*, Lola Daydream, referring to her Holy Guardian Angel, says, "I shan't tell you his name because it is too beautiful. It is a great secret between us."<sup>16</sup> The importance of this latter point can be seen in the legends of ancient Egypt, especially in the story of how Isis gained her divinity.<sup>17</sup>

#### 2. *Substitute ABRAHADABRA, the Word of the Æon*

Additionally, Crowley notes that ABRAHADABRA, the Word of the Æon may be substituted. This warrants a closer look as well. ABRAHADABRA means completion of the Great Work. It comes from the Aramaic phrase אברה אברא כה אברא, which means, "I create as I speak," or, "I create by speaking." Containing five vowels and six consonants, it is the union of the Microcosm with the Macrocosm. Importantly, the only vowel used is A, thus signifying the Pentalpha, or Pentagram. This also hints at the deeper use of the L.B.R.P., which I explore in a later installment.

## THE FOUR HOLY NAMES OF POWER

### 1. YHVH

The L.B.R.P. contains four Holy Names of Power, and each of these Names comprises four letters. These names are YHVH, ADNI, AHIH, and AGLA. The first of these is the name of God Itself, probably pronounced *Yahweh*. This is a name of real action. From a grammatical standpoint, "YHWH is treated as a verbal form derived from 'to be' ... . Actually YHWH is a third person form and may mean 'He causes to be.' The name does not indicate God's eternal being but God's action and presence in historical affairs."<sup>18</sup>

From a Qabalistic point of view, these four letters represent the primordial elements of creation: Fire, Water, Air, Earth. In terms of the redintegration of the soul, they represent the Father, Mother, Son, and Daughter. For these reasons, some practitioners elect to articulate the four letters of this Name: *Yod-Heh-Vau-Heh*. For those who chose to letter the Name, rather than pronounce it, it is important to keep the mystical reasons in mind to distinguish one's practice from that of the ancient synagogue. Moreover, *Yod-*



*Heh-Vau-Heh* also represents the transmission of an idea into reality, or, more esoterically, the descent of a concept from the Atziluthic world, through the Briatic and Yetziratic worlds to the Assiatic world in which most of us find ourselves.<sup>19</sup> The gematric value of YHVH is 26, which, as the product of two and thirteen, may be interpreted as the combination of Unity and Love. This has a particular meaning in Thelema, where "[e]ach action or motion is an act of love, the uniting of one or another part of 'Nuit'; each such act must be 'under will,' chosen so as to fulfill and not to thwart the true nature of the being concerned."<sup>20</sup> On a Hermetic level, YHVH corresponds to the Ιυγγες, or "starters," of the *Chaldean Oracles*.<sup>21</sup> In whatever paradigm one chooses, this is the action that sets the ritual into motion.

### 2. ADNI

The second Name is ADNI, pronounced *Adonai*. Contrary to the common belief, it does not mean "Lord," but rather "my Lord." As mentioned previously, the Name of God was not to be uttered casually. The name of God, as the Christians have

received him, is an amalgamation of the consonants of the Divine Name, Y-H-V-H, with the vowels of A-D-N-I. The name by which they know God, is *Yahovah*. The effects of such an arrangement, unfortunately, are beyond the scope of this brief lecture. Regardless, ADNI, located in the southern quarter, suggests that the Name might be associated with other gods of that quarter, such as Hadit, Set, and Satan. This becomes even more apparent when one considers the symbolism of the Michael, the Archangel of the South, as will be seen in the next installment.

The gematric value of ADNI is 65, which is the value of the sum of the whole numbers one through the square of five, divided by five,<sup>22</sup> making ADNI the most pentagrammatic Name of the Four, especially in the sense of martial influence, division, and conflict.

### 3. AHIH

The third Name is AHIH, which is popularly pronounced *E-he-yeh*, although this is not technically correct. In Hebrew, this word is אהיה, which is pronounced *Eh-yeh*.<sup>23</sup> This unvoiced name, as the prophet Elijah suggests, may be the true nature of God:

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind and earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence."<sup>24</sup>

All elements of *Yod-Heh-Vau-Heh* are represented in this passage ("fire," "wind," "earthquake") except Water, which is the quarter where AHIH appears, thus completing the circuit.

Sharing the same linguistic root, AHIH bears an important relationship to YHVH. In the book of Exodus, God, appearing in the form of a burning bush, sent Moses on a mission to the Israelites:

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"<sup>25</sup>

Thus, the third person form YHVH is now cast into the first person. No longer does it mean, "He causes to be." Because Classical Hebrew does not have a present tense, only future and past, the Name connotes "I have been and I shall be." This is the eternal form of the Divine Name, and, appropriately, stands in opposition to its historical form.

### 4. AGLA

The fourth Name is אלהים, which is a notariqon of the phrase *Ateh gibor le-olam Adonai* ("Thou art mighty forever,

my Lord"). Having unpacked the Name, we discover that, like a celestial nesting doll, it contains another Divine Name. Also, the quarter of ADNI is where the Sun is at its hottest, the quarter of AGLA is where the sun shines at midnight. It is the darkest of the four quarters. Thus, just as YHVH and AHIH are balanced along an east-west axis, ADNI and AGLA are balanced along a north-south axis. Keep in mind that, as the Magician is making a circle, he is also forming a cross.<sup>26</sup> This is the second cross of the ritual.

*Love is the law, love under will.*

[TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR WINTER ISSUE.]

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> This article is based on a presentation given at Babalon Rising IV, near French Lick, Indiana, IV:xix, Sol in 20° Gemini, Luna in 26° Libra, dies Saturnii. I would like to thank Brothers Brian Alt and Ron Labhart for their proofreading and sourcing assistance. Any suggested interpretation of *Liber AL vel Legis* contained within this essay and not attributed to the Prophet is to be taken as mere opinion.

<sup>2</sup> 0°=0°

<sup>3</sup> From Eliphas Lévi, *Transcendental Magic*, p. 234 (trans. A.E. Waite) (1896):

The sign of the Cross adopted by the Christians does not exclusively belong to them. It is also Kabbalistic, and represents to opposition and tetradic equilibrium of the elements. There were originally two methods of making it, the one reserved for priests and initiates, the other set apart for the neophytes and profane. Thus, for example, the initiate, raising his hand to his forehead, said: "Thine is," then brought it down to his breast, "the kingdom," then transferred it to the left shoulder, "justice," finally to the right shoulder, "and mercy," then joining his hands, he added, "through the generating ages." *Tibi sunt Malchut et Geburah et Chesed per æonas*—a sign of the Cross which is absolutely and splendidly Kabbalistic, and which the profanations of the Gnosis have entirely lost to the official and militant church. This sign made in this manner should precede and terminate the conjuration of the Four.

<sup>4</sup> Joshua Trachtenberg, *Jewish Magic and Superstition: A Study in Folk Religion*, p. 158.

<sup>5</sup> Aleister Crowley, *Magick: Liber ABA (Book 4)*, p. 690 ("Notes on the Lesser Ritual of the Pentagram").

<sup>6</sup> Note that it is a single, capitalized Pentagram.

<sup>7</sup> *Collected Works of Aleister Crowley*, vol. 1, p. 204, fn. 1 (1905).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> "Our Father, who art in Heaven, . . . thy kingdom come, *Continued on next page* ∞

thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.”

<sup>10</sup> Or, “royal power, reign.”

<sup>11</sup> Or, “might.” Technically, Geburah is not Hebrew, but Biblical Aramaic. See Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon, p. 1086a.

<sup>12</sup> See fn. 5, *supra*, p. 783, fn. 352.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*, p. 539

<sup>15</sup> Why Crowley published the Name of his Angel might merit further consideration.

<sup>16</sup> Aleister Crowley, *Konx Om Pax*, p. [3].

<sup>17</sup> See John A. Wilson, “The God and His Unknown Name of Power,” in *Ancient Near-Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament*, (ed. J.B. Pritchard), pp. 12-14 (relating how Isis used a serpent fashioned from dust and Ra’s spittle to gain Ra’s secret name, and thereby divinity).

<sup>18</sup> The New Oxford Annotated Bible, p. 72, fn. 3.13-15. (All biblical citations in this essay come from this translation.)

<sup>19</sup> From Lon Milo DuQuette, *The Tarot of Ceremonial Magic*, p. 3:

“ Atziluth, the Archetypal World is the highest and most perfect of the four worlds. In Atziluth the male and female aspects of deity are united in bliss. The remaining three worlds are prod-

ucts of this union, and continue to diminish in its purest aspect. [...] 𐌒 Briaḥ is the Creative World in which the pure light of Atziluth begins to become organized. [...] 𐌒 Yetzirah is the World of Formation where the universal organization of Briaḥ becomes specific and a hierarchy of Angels with individual duties is established. [...] 𐌒 (final) Assiah is the Material World, in which the impurities produced by the degeneration of the original light as it passes through the various worlds is crystallized to form the material world, nature, and human existence.

<sup>20</sup> Aleister Crowley, *Liber AL vel Legis*, “Introduction.”

<sup>21</sup> G.R.S. Mead, *The Chaldean Oracles*, vol. 2, p. 9 (1908).

<sup>22</sup>  $\Sigma (1-5^2) / 5$

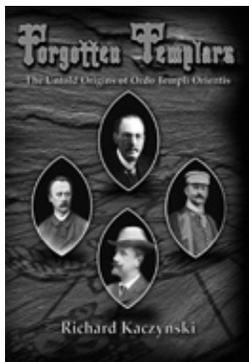
<sup>23</sup> See also, “EHEIHEH. [...] The sound of the word represents the indrawn and outdrawn breath.” Aleister Crowley, 777, p. 53, in *777 and Other Qabalistic Writings of Aleister Crowley* (1986).

<sup>24</sup> 1 Kings 19:11-12.

<sup>25</sup> Exodus 3:13-14.

<sup>26</sup> Circles and crosses are important symbols, as can be seen in *Liber Resh vel Helios*, the *Mass of the Phoenix*, and other rituals.

## PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENTS



### ***FORGOTTEN TEMPLARS:***

### ***THE UNTOLD ORIGINS OF ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS***

by Richard Kaczynski

Published by the author, 2012

An unlikely cocktail of actors and musicians, doctors and merchants, anarchists and sexual reformers populated the occult underground of the late nineteenth century. One by-product of this strange brew was the magical order known as Ordo Templi Orientis. Its origins have subsisted as shadowy mytho-history. Until now. This revelatory study brings into sharp focus the personalities, movements, and circumstances that gave rise to one of the largest and most influential secret societies of our time.

### ***IN THE CENTER OF THE FIRE:***

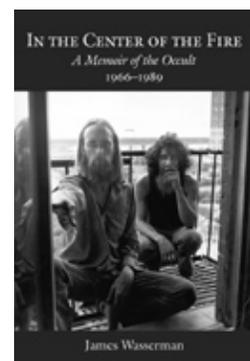
### ***A MEMOIR OF THE OCCULT 1966–1989***

by James Wasserman

Ibis Press, 2012

The founder of New York City’s TAHUTI Lodge of O.T.O., Wasserman traces its early history. In addition, he meticulously chronicles the copyright contest over the Crowley literary estate, of which he was an important participant.

Reconstructed from personal memories, magical diaries, multiple interviews, court transcripts, witness depositions, trial evidence, and extensive correspondence, this book elucidates a hitherto misreported and ill-understood nexus of modern magical history.



*Agapé* welcomes announcements of book and music publications by members of U.S. Grand Lodge.

Please send your copy and cover image to the Editor at [agape@oto-usa.org](mailto:agape@oto-usa.org).

## THE LOVE UNDER WILL BOAT

by Soror Nihil Obstat

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

I love Ordo Templi Orientis. I really, really love it. I love the ritual. I love being around people who get the idea of fraternity. I love being associated with a body that allows me to be spiritual without weighing me down with rhetoric and burdensome dogma. I love the Gnostic Mass. Above all, though, I love the people. My brothers and sisters are fascinating individuals, and I love being around them. The more the merrier.

I also love cruises. There is something really magical about going to sleep in St. Croix and waking up in St. Thomas, or Bermuda, or Puerto Rico. I have been an avid cruiser since 2007 EV, and have been a co-organizer for a yearly group cruise since 2009. I think everyone should go on a cruise at least once, because it really is a fun and relatively inexpensive way to see the world. Group cruises are even more fun, because you get to take your friends on vacation with you, and really, how awesome is that?

So, while sitting around at Kaaba Colloquium in Beachwood last year, we (meaning my Cleveland brethren and I) started talking about how much work is involved when we all get together with people from bodies outside of our own (they don't call it The Great Work for nothing, after all) and that, lovely as that all is, it would be kind of nice to round up a bunch of Thelemites from all across the country and just hang

out and get to know one another once and a while. No lectures. No pressures. No working. Just fruity drinks and conversation and fun for a few days with some really cool people we don't get to see very often, and very rarely have time to actually get to know. Which is when it hit us that the ultimate answer to this dilemma is that we should combine the two things I love the most – cruises and Thelemites – and organize the

first ever (that I know of, anyway) Thelemic group cruise. I jokingly named it *The Love Under Will Boat*, and came home with the determination to make it happen. And, so I did.

The aptly named Love Under Will Boat has become a reality, and is now booking for its first 5-night cruise from

Tampa, Florida, with stops in Grand Cayman and Cozumel, Mexico, and is scheduled to set sail in January of 2014 EV. If you would like more information about the Love Under Will Boat, and how you can get on board, please visit our website at [www.loveunderwillboat.com](http://www.loveunderwillboat.com).

It is my hope that this project will become an interesting and entertaining way of getting to know one another and to strengthen the bond of fraternity across the country.

*[Please note that the Love Under Will Boat is not a project sponsored by U.S. Grand Lodge.]*

*Love is the law, love under will.*

### AGAPÉ IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MATERIAL!

**We want:** news and articles, original rituals and artwork, temple photos, reviews of all kinds (books, films, music, events, etc.), local body reports, local body publication reports, publication announcements, members' personal announcements (including births, marriages and Greater Feasts) and anything else pertinent to Thelema, Ordo Templi Orientis, and the activities of our members.

**See** our submission guidelines at [www.oto-usa.org/agape.html](http://www.oto-usa.org/agape.html). Contact [agape@oto-usa.org](mailto:agape@oto-usa.org) with any questions or proposals.

## PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

We are Thelemites, Magicians, initiates of a Most Holy Order, and many other things besides. Most important of all, we are people: men and women with families and jobs, struggles, and all those other wonderful and messy events that add up to *lives*. This section is where we commemorate those events. *Agapé* welcomes announcements of members' weddings, the births of members' children, Greater Feasts, and other significant life events. Send your notices to [agape@oto-usa.org](mailto:agape@oto-usa.org).

### MARRIAGES



*FRATER OZ AND FRATER MERLIN*

Tahuti Lodge in New York City is ecstatic to announce the recent nuptials between our Brother and Deputy Master, Frater Oz, to his long-time partner Frater Merlin on Saturday June 16, 2012 EV.

Following the passing of the Marriage Equality Act by the New York State Legislature in June 2011 EV and signed into law the same day by Governor Andrew Cuomo, New York became the seventh state to recognize the long overdue need for freedom and equality for all, regardless of sexual orientation.

Fraters Oz and Merlin have been together for 25 years and the ability to make their relationship legal was a real jewel in the crown! Frater Oz, a long time resident of New York's East Village, is a digital graphics and print professional. Frater Merlin, who hails from New York's Lower East Side, is retired and quite content to be so. Both are active members of Tahuti Lodge in the Valley of New York City.

One of the core doctrines of the law of Thelema and the O.T.O., is the cultivation of individual liberty. With regards to sexual freedom, *Liber OZ* states "Man has the right to love as he will" and *Liber AL vel Legis* chapter 1 verse 51 proclaims "take your fill and will of love as ye will, when, where, and with whom ye will." Tahuti Lodge proudly advanced those precepts by legally performing a gnostic wedding involving a same sex couple.

Officiating the wedding was Bishop Tau Heru-Set, assisted by Priestess and Lodge Master Soror Alecto, and Deacon Soror Hathor.

—Reported by Sister Kittie Palakovich

*Love is the law, love under will.*



*BROTHER JONES AND SISTER BALL*

Coph Nia Lodge in the Valley of Eugene, Oregon is proud to announce the wedding of our treasurer, Sister Katherine Darris Ball to our master, Brother David R. Jones. The ceremony was performed by Brother Christopher Scott at McKenzie River Lodge #195 AF&AM under the auspices of Coph Nia Lodge, and the reception held afterwards at Maude Kerns Art Gallery. A wonderful time was had by all who attended.

### BIRTHS

#### *BRAEDYN*

Frater Soncelon and Soror S.S.S. of Astrum Inculta Camp in the Valley of Carbondale, Illinois, are pleased to announce the birth of their son Braedyn at 9:23 pm on October 13th, 2012 EV (AN IV:XX, Sol in ♌, Luna in ♎). Braedyn weighed in at 8.48 pounds and was 21 inches long at birth.

#### *THOR OLIAS*

Frater Julianus and Soror Aurora Selene of the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Camp-in-Formation wish to announce the birth of their son Thor Olias at 4:42 pm on October 24th, 2012 EV (AN IV:XX, Sol in ♍, Luna in ♋). Upon arrival, Thor was 7 pounds, 15 ounces and 22 inches long, which appears to be mostly feet. Frater Julianus is proud to note his firstborn has already mastered several mystical signs, including Vir and the masonic Grand Hailing Sign of Distress.



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