

Eric Diamond

Eric's Masonic career began in 1998 with an innocent query on alt. freemasonry. In 1999 he was initiated, passed and raised in Oriental Lodge No. 33, Chicago's oldest lodge. Almost immediately he went to work in Masonry first becoming Oriental's webmaster and later entering the line. In 2007 he became Worshipful Master of Oriental.

In 2005 he served as Excellent High Priest of La Fayette Chapter No. 2 Royal Arch Masons, once the largest Masonic body in the world. He also served as Thrice Illustrious Master of Chicago Council No. 4 of Royal and Select Masters in 2004, receiving the Grand Council Leadership Award for 2004.

He currently Senior Warden of Lux ex Oriente Council No. 379, Allied Masonic Degrees, and is a regular attendee at Masonic Week in Washington DC. He is also a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason in the Valley of Chicago and has served as an officer in the Gourgas Chapter of Rose Croix. He has appeared in several Rose Croix degrees and directed both the 17th and 18th degrees for 3 years.

Eric served on the membership committee for the Grand Lodge of Illinois, working on membership retention issues. He serves as Senior Deacon in the Illinois Lodge of Research. Eric is also a Founding Fellow of the Masonic Society, a new Masonic society promoting Masonic education, research and scholarship.

In 2004 Eric started a podcast called *X-Oriente*, dedicated to looking to the future of Masonry. Through *X-Oriente* he hopes to explore the meaning and relevance of Masonry in the 21st century as well as help create a toolbox for the Craft to progress. *X-Oriente* has a global audience of 36,000 downloads per month on all 5 continents.

Eric is also a serious student of Kabbalah and Jewish Mysticism, and has been studying and teaching mystic traditions and comparative religion since 1988. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Chicago PeaceNow, an organization devoted to creating serious peaceful dialogue between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews.

Eric lives in Skokie where he runs an interactive design practice called Firstwater where he provides design and strategic services to companies looking to improve their online experience. He lives in a blue house with his wife Fran and son Sam.