

Orlando Stoics Celebrates 10 Years

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(ORLANDO)—Although you might not think it based on the word, Orlando Stoics is getting ready to *celebrate* its 10-year anniversary on April 20th, 2025.

"The first meeting of the Orlando Stoics was on April 20, 2015, and we have steadily grown over the last ten years," said StoicDan, the organizer of Orlando Stoics. "Ten years of people asking questions, sharing stories, reading ancient texts and modern books, and learning how to live better from great ideas 2,000 or more years ago."

Over the years, Orlando Stoics has interviewed notable Stoic scholars and book authors like:

- Massimo Pigliucci, Professor of Philosophy at City College of New York
- Donald Robertson, Cognitive-Behavioral Psychotherapist and Stoic author
- Margaret Graver, Professor in Classics at Dartmouth College
- Greg Sadler and Andi Sciacca, prominent contributors to the Modern Stoicism movement
- Brittany Polat, blogger and author of four books on Stoicism, including *Tranquility Parenting*

"Our first meeting was at the Panera Bread at 2415 N. Orange Avenue in a hospital," said StoicDan. "The venue was a good match for us, because the ancient Stoics often spoke of philosophy as like visiting a doctor. Instead of a pin-prick that hurts, you will instead feel the 'pain' of self-reflection and self-examination, where you admit your faults and weaknesses to yourself."

Today, the most important part of Orlando Stoics is the meeting format: each meeting begins with a dialogue on Monday and Friday nights, plus Sunday mornings. StoicDan and 2-3 others introduce topics from multiple viewpoints. The dialogue partners have Masters and PhDs in various topics. These dialogues make topics more accessible to the gallery for the Q&A portion of the meeting that follows. This format is very engaging and brings people back consistently over time; in this way, Orlando Stoics has grown to 3290+ members and 1430+ events.

Orlando Stoics meets five times per week. The most recent addition (2024) was a Spanish-language group that meets on Wednesdays and discusses philosophy in Spanish. Surprisingly, the entire group operates as a nonprofit with no membership fees, because its fans help StoicDan create materials.

The group is planning special events in 2025, including a summer social, a comedy slam, and our annual Stoicon-X Orlando regional event with international speakers.

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About Orlando Stoics:

The Orlando Stoics is a philosophical discussion group that originated in April 2015 and is the third-largest Stoic discussion group in North America after Toronto and NYC. It hosts five weekly meetings, both online and in-person, uniting participants from the United States, United Kingdom,

Australia, Thailand, and Nepal. The group examines Stoic principles and their intersectionality with diverse philosophical frameworks. All programming is free and open to the public.