
Rowan Tree Church Periodicals Collection

MS/150-5-022

2003-2004

The Rowan Tree Church 22nd Annual Report, November, 2004 ce Hallows 2003 ce-Hallows 2004 ce.

Rowan Tree Church

For this and additional works see: <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/2169>

UUID: 1807122E-3B68-29A5-4D1C-8B2DB64A9C68

Recommended Citation:

Rowan Tree Church. The Rowan Tree Church 22nd Annual Report, November, 2004 ce Hallows 2003 ce-Hallows 2004 ce. Kirkland: WA: Rowan Tree Church, 2004. Rowan Tree Church Periodicals Collection, New Age Movements, Occultism, and Spiritualism Research Library. Archives and Special Collections. Valdosta State University. Valdosta, GA. <http://hdl.handle.net/10428/3051>.

This item is free and open source. It is part of the Rowan Tree Church Periodicals Collection at Odum Library Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. If you have any questions or concerns contact archives@valdosta.edu



The Rowan Tree Church

22nd Annual Report: November, 2004 ce

Hallows 2003 ce - Hallows 2004 ce



Rowan

Rowan: from *A Compendium of Herbal Magick*

We Harvest: Drop Down Seeds

Last year we spoke about 'returning to our roots.' The Rowan Tree had embraced some temporary changes. We increased our expenses by adding liability insurance. There were a few changes of positions as those who work as our primary volunteers rearranged themselves. Several individuals left our organization. More new Members came along. The Mystery School kept its enrollment on the low side to focus upon the quality of students and our long-term goals for a time. We were all encouraged to contemplate the future of The Rowan Tree Church in conjunction with the Highest Ideals of The Tradition of Lothloriën.

And how have we done? As we turn the Wheel at Hallowsmas, this autumn's harvest season indicates where we are. Just as our canning shelves in the weight bench area of the classroom hold more jars of home-grown, organic fruit juice than ever, there has been significant growth within our Church.

As the Wheel turned at Hallows a brand-new recording of The Ritual of Lothloriën was being sent out on both cassette tape and on CD. There had been a number of requests in recent years and a search of the cassette tape library left the need wanting. It was quite a joyful afternoon on October 10th when a group of us gathered and chanted The Ritual of Lothloriën and then sang the Goddess Songs.

As one Member wrote on a Saturday, "I received The Ritual of Lothloriën Thursday afternoon and I haven't stopped listening to it. I listen to it when I get up and again

before I go to sleep... It's wonderful to hear how you've conducted it all. I really enjoy the over-all melody of the Ritual." Two days later he wrote, "I'm still listening to the ritual tape. it's wonderful!! Good job to all who participated." Bill's comments exemplify why this recording was made.

My personal work has been to bring more information about various aspects of The Tradition of Lothloriën and the history of The Rowan Tree Church out of my aging mind. The concept of Unicorns, for example, is one which sets us apart from every other Wiccan Tradition of which I have knowledge. Why do we have Unicorns? What is their role in the history of humans in general? Part of my research was stimulated by some information uncovered through Jim Saigle's research. Jim is a Lay Minister, the editor (again) of *The Littlest Unicorn* and declared his goal to all of us of becoming an ordained Initiate of Lothloriën through his Yoking Ritual held at Yellowstone during our Annual Retreat in 2003 ce. It was Jim who brought the information about Genghis Khan's unicorn dream and how it altered the course of history for one region in Asia. Sales of *The Unicorn* of Lothloriën are used to help support *The Unicorn* newsletter, which is delighted to announce that it has a new volunteer, Dharma, who is the poetry editor as she learns about editing tasks involved in the publication.

My other 'major' work was to publish the tarot columns. Although this spiral-bound book emerged from The Hermit's Grove, the study of the Tarot is emphasized within The Mystery School and many of our Members study one or more decks. I am still at work to complete a series of further columns (the numerology of the Tarot) and have a small hope that the manuscript might be taken up by a publisher. If not, at some future time (perhaps within two or three years), it might be published by The Hermit's Grove.

This past summer we worked The Ritual for Dead as a memorial for Judith Karliss, a late Member who was a joy to our local Community. At that time Judith's athame and chalice were set into the Mother's soil just outside the Stone Circle. The working of The Ritual for the Dead was the center ritual work for the Annual Retreat, demonstrating how much we continue to mature and evolve as a collective organization.

A major focus of my work has been many hours' contemplation and writing to expand Lothloriën's Book of Shadows. Although I am perhaps, at best, 20% done, there has been the addition of numerous pages on the history of the various texts within the BOS as well as a gathering of what had been the Oral Tradition which has been held within the basket of my memory, one which is growing creaky with age. Oral Tradition is like the old children's

game of telephone and information. Information passed along orally has the ability to change and alter itself, shaped by the experience and thoughts of each person's mind which resides between their ears before it comes out their mouths. Important information which is not merely historical but intrinsic to understanding the underlying nature of Lothloriën's Mysteries should not be allowed to float about only in the founder's memory. I was led to understand that, as the Father/Mother of Lothloriën, this is an important part of my work for your future.

We've not needed to do much pruning this past year. One small, unfinished task was the future disposition of the original post office box which I opened prior to the initiation of *The Unicorn*. We've known for some time that, eventually, it would be appropriate to close Post Office Box 8814 at the Minneapolis location. Nostalgia kept me from taking the pruning shears in hand. This box was held for nearly 30 years and the address continues to remain in print in hundreds of books. Each month my sister (or her husband) would pick up the mail. They live at least 20 miles south of that area, and Diane would then package it up and send it here. Just when a month brought only a few pieces of mail leading me to think, "does this mean it's time?" then the following month might have more than a dozen inquiries. Of all the flyers and information sent out to those inquiries, rarely did anyone follow through with a subscription or request for more information. Yet, we continued. Anyone who handles a considerable amount of postal mail (as does The Rowan Tree Church) knows that their *must* be postal gods. And so the postal gods determined... The renewal notice was not sent to us and the box was closed. Although we could have sent my brother-in-law into the city and dealt with it (the lock had already been changed) the sensible thing was to keep that decision in the hands of the postal gods, and so that address is now part of our history.

Although the majority of our Members do not live within driving distance of the rituals here at our home and gardens (which are usually referred to as The Hermit's Grove), as the center of operations the local Members and their activity is central to the health of the Rowan Tree as a whole. How 'healthy' are we? Our average attendance at Sunday Circles is as strong as it's ever been. And this year our annual food drive for Hallows brought in an astounding amount of generosity. The quantity of food is far beyond what one would expect from such a small group of Members who live around here. And, through a cash donation from a Member in California, we have the beginning of next year's harvest as well.

With the Annual Report we leave the past year behind and move forward. The new list of ritual dates is now on our web site. We have our newest fund-raising item from Donna Lewin, one which allows us to have physical contact with Stonehenge in our rituals. We are very much ready for the coming year.

I am honored and I continue to feel humble when I think of the gifts the Universe has brought me. I did not set out to establish a small, unusual Wiccan church and I didn't always understand what would be expected of me. Living with Nature, working in the soil these past nearly thirty

years, however, taught me that sometimes we must simply accept our roles as worker bees and worker ants and then later, when the time is right, it's good to be compost.

Bless each of you this coming year.

Rev. Paul

The General Manager

As General Manager I oversee the paying of bills, the work flow, purchasing, and budget management (among other duties). It is the General Manager's responsibility to oversee balance of the various budgets. Sometimes this requires minor 'Peter and Paul balancing,' - you know, paying some of the postage for one budget which is temporarily robust from another which is temporarily anemic. Over time it averages out. The General Manager also oversees the maintenance of the facilities, from working with The Hermit's Grove regarding the management of the acre of land to the rental of the storage locker. And the General Manager ensures that services are made available for Church operations, from electricity to telephone, from the portable toilet to the web site provider.

Perhaps the most significant accomplishment this past year was our acquiring liability insurance. The challenge will be to have enough income to cover this expense which will run over \$700.00 a year. While this may seem like a large figure should anyone sustain injury for which the Rowan Tree is liable the financial blow could lead to the end of our beloved Rowan Tree's existence. Even if not at fault, those 'out-of-court settlements' you read of in the newspapers simply to avoid the legal costs of defence can be huge. Having liability insurance moves us another step toward maturity.

The Church has over eight thousand dollars in its land fund, money collected over twenty-five years which is to some day allow the Rowan Tree to acquire some sacred land within the reaches of the Upper Mothervalley. This money is protected in four Certificates of Deposit. Three CDs have 'rolled over' this past year (been renewed) at current interest rates which are dismal compared with what we were getting when the CDs were first taken out over five years ago.

Because the General manager is also, by default (and it is at present practical for the Rowan Tree as well) the bookkeeper, he prepares the receipts and reports for a quarterly audit but does not participate in the actual audit process.

And the work goes well. There have been no difficulties. In service, Rev. Paul

One overview of the nature of our Church is to examine the costs of postage and printing.

Total Postage and Shipping = \$1,406.93

Rowan Tree General Budget	\$352.33
postal box rent	38.00

<i>The Rowan Tree News</i>	178.06
promotional, informational and business	214.85
subtotal	\$783.24
last year	1,109.13
The Mystery School	\$262.72
Subscription Library	21.03
Periodical Library	21.00
cassette tape mailing	78.40
<i>The Unicorn</i>	202.32
<i>The Littlest Unicorn</i>	32.40
Annual Retreat	5.82
total of all	\$1,406.93
last year	\$1,877.54
change	- \$470.61

Why this change? How did we decrease our costs? The Mystery School worked with a more compact size. The Subscription Library was not sending books through the mail (due to a lack of requests). *The Unicorn*, by contrast, saw an increase of nearly \$100.00. This, however, is misleading. At times this year *The Unicorn* had a strong balance and money was used to subsidize the General Budget's postage cost.

A second cost-saving comes from the stamps which are contributed by several prisoners who send larger donations of stamps (well beyond what the POP requests) at times as a donation to express gratitude and thanks.

Total Printing = \$1,181.73

<i>The Rowan Tree News</i>	\$334.40
catalogs, flyers, etc.	122.11
last year's Annual Report	19.25
<i>The Unicorn</i>	297.78
<i>The Littlest Unicorn</i>	47.73
Periodical Library	69.68
The Mystery School	101.39
Subscription Library	202.40
total	\$1,181.73
last year	1,405.20
change	- \$223.47

How was this cost decreased? One decrease was about \$80.00 in savings due to *The Littlest Unicorn* being printed by its editor, rather than the copying being done by our printing service. Considerable printing is also done on the Beyerls' laser printers, although this does take a toll on the equipment and merits a reminder to make an occasional donation to the computer equipment fund. Most of the two hundred dollars charged to the Subscription Library was a subsidy for printing for the Rowan Tree in general. The Library had a healthy budget and the Church did not. Part of the work of the General Manager is to make ends meet. Sometimes [Rev.] Paul must 'borrow' from Peter.

Financial Statements 2003-2004

The following figures represent the budget total (the amount in the checking account for each of these divisions) at the beginning of the fiscal year; at the end of the fiscal year on October 31, 2004 ce; and the change:

operating budgets

RT General Budget	390.56	196.95	- \$193.95
The Mystery School	157.20	170.02	+ 12.82
Subscription Library	262.32	134.86	- 127.46
Periodical Library	119.39	185.44	+ 66.05
<i>The Unicorn</i>	159.69	106.84	- 52.85
<i>The Littlest Unicorn</i>	187.40	188.22	+ 0.82
Annual Retreat	484.70	294.26	- 190.44
computer expenses	152.39	12.27	- 140.12
tape duplicating services	67.08	117.00	+ 49.92
subtotals	1,980.73	1,405.86	- 574.87

In addition we have money in our checking account which is part of a 'fund,' not available for general expenses.

sales tax money for State	16.49	42.58	+ 26.09
t-shirt replacement	189.20	189.20	.00
Retreat Scholarship fund	934.72	939.72	+ 5.00
Members' cabin piggy bank	80.00	460.00	+ 380.00
Land Fund	416.36	589.99	+ 173.63
property tax fund	469.47	470.98	+ 1.51
liability insurance fund	863.04	812.77	- 50.27
royalties due former Member	0.00	1.00	+ 1.00
subtotals	2,969.28	3,506.24	+ 536.96
net balance	4,950.01	4,912.10	- 37.91

When looking at the increase in the total from last year, it is important to realize that much of this money is not 'ours.' The 'piggy bank,' for example, is money which belongs to Members which they are paying, in advance, for their cabin at the Yellowstone Retreat in 2006 ce.

Right off the top we see that our General Budget, primarily supported by donations, has lost money this year. Not good. We did not do well this year but we did O.K.

Your Help

Member Donations for the year:	\$3,054.84
Member donations last year:	3,876.85
change	- 822.01

Ouch... We lost over eight hundred dollars in decreased donations this year. It was fortunate that the General Manager took money from budgets such as *The Unicorn* and the Subscription Library to keep things going but we can only hope that this changes. The cost of living, for our Tree, does go up even with the cost-cutting of postage and printing.

Dedicated Donations: \$1,724.59

These figures represent money donated by members *in addition* to their regular donations with their monthly forms. These monies have been designated for specific uses and cannot be diverted by the General Manager for paying other bills, the exception being money specifically given to the General Budget (including \$130.71 donated by Wendy B. for plumbing repair expense).

RT General Fund	\$139.71
computer expenses	200.00
Subscription library	21.97
tape expense	2.00
Retreat Scholarship	5.00
land fund	.38
property tax	930.00
liability insurance	425.53
<hr/> total	<hr/> \$1,724.59
last year	2,332.45
change	- \$607.86

This figure also dropped. Together, Member donations fell off over **\$1400.00**. This year, unlike most, we did not beg and plead for money. There was little addressed in *The Rowan Tree News* about the need for your donations. Perhaps the absence of "money sermons" was unwise.

Communication from your Board of Directors

President, Board of Directors

My work as President of the Board of Directors has enjoyed a relatively easy year. There were no crises and I believe we accomplished some excellent goals. Last October, the BOD appointed Jim Saigle as editor of *The Littlest Unicorn*. He had done excellent work in this position previously and the Board was more than ready to accept his offer. Noël Knower had done a terrific job in the position and was all set to turn over the editorship to a (now former) Rowan Tree Member who, at the last minute, found herself unable to keep her commitment.

The Board worked with the head of the Prisoner Outreach Program and put in motion a 'transitional membership' program for released prisoners; put in place a privacy policy which included purchasing a modest paper shredder now in use for the home office; and passed a motion to add questions which improved accountability and provided Members with greatly expanded information about those who would be candidates for the election of Directors.

Perhaps the best goal was the Board's working with Rev. Paul to obtain liability insurance for the Church. It was through a former Board Member that we were put in touch with the company which would write the policy. [Special thanks to Charly.]

In addition to this the Board prepared several

amendments to the Book of Legislation which would provide further management when dealing with former prisoners to accommodate the success of the Prisoner Outreach Program. These proposals were submitted to the IRS who ruled that they are legally acceptable.

Currently the Board is examining some of the wording which describes the Church in the web site and catalog and has recently made a commitment to add The Hermit's Grove, formally, as an educational subsidiary and begin creating legal by-laws which will determine the future of The Hermit's Grove which is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Washington but which has not yet filed for 501(c)(3) status with the IRS.

Wearing as many hats as I do, having the ability to do the accounting, bookkeeping, handle the legal work and more, I am the logical person to be the President of the Board of Directors. I can say that my skills continue to grow each year. Thankfully the Directors are patient with me. I am grateful to those on the BOD who, over the many years, have grown to become my extended family.

Those able to attend the annual meeting in person bring a 'family reunion' quality and it is one of my joys.

With blessings for all,

Rev. Paul

Vice President, Board of Directors

This year the Board of Directors Agendas have been a little shorter than during other years. Nonetheless, significant progress is being made overseeing the day-to-day operation of The Rowan Tree Church and in planning for its Future. During the BOD Meeting at the Annual Retreat, it was agreed that the process of transforming The Hermits Grove into an official subsidiary of The Rowan Tree Church would begin. Detail work will take time but progress is being made.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Saigle

Treasurer, Board of Directors

Although I have served on the Board of Directors for many years, in the past few years it has been in the capacity of Vice President. This year, I returned to the role of Treasurer. In this role, I have assisted with the quarterly audits, helping to ensure that the accounting reports of The Rowan Tree accurately reflect our current financial situation. The audit process includes reviewing bank statements and checking the reconciliation between those statements and deposit slips and ledger entries.

This year the Board of Directors was able to achieve a long standing goal for The Rowan Tree: to purchase liability insurance. Even since the Beyerls generously donated the back acre of land at The Hermit's Grove to the Rowan Tree, the BOD has been concerned about the lack of insurance. Because there are many visitors to the Grove every year, and volunteers and interns work in the gardens, there is the chance that someone could be injured on Church property. Having insurance provides a safeguard for the Church against legal claims. It is through the generous donations of members that The Rowan Tree has been able

to purchase insurance. And we are hopeful that rates will not rise since we have had no claims. However, I need to continue to ask members to continue their commitment to paying for insurance through their donations to the insurance fund.

My goals for the coming year are to communicate regularly with members through the Rowan Tree News about the Church's financial situation and to help raise enough money to continue the insurance.

I want to thank all the members for giving me the opportunity to be of service to The Rowan Tree through my participation on the Board of Directors. I look forward to the chance to continue to work for the Church in this manner.

Blessed be. Donna

Secretary, Board of Directors

Greetings to each one of you, my Brothers and Sisters of the Rowan Tree family!

During the year just completed, i have had the privilege to serve you as Secretary to the Board of Directors. i send sincere thanks to you all for assisting me in fulfilling my duties. Your monthly forms, donations, cards, and letters are truly important to me. i hope that my responses are as meaningful to each of you.

The information you share about yourself is truly one of the most important parts of the RTNews. Your Child of Light requests for energy have allowed others to offer their services through the Galadhrim. Once again, each of you have had the opportunity to vote for the Board of Directors for the coming year. More than half of you did fill out your ballot and return it to the Scribe. i am gratified by this response.

For the past year, my goal was to have a response time to your correspondence of one week maximum. For the early part of the past twelve months, this has been the rule rather than the exception, and it has given me a better feeling about my responses to your writings and donations. i hope you feel more valued as a Member by this. The exceptions have been since the growing season started and the garden working of the summer and of August/September became very intense. i will aim for a same month response this year and hope you will bear with me as i work into the cooler Autumn months and catch up. i feel this is more realistic with the lifestyle of the Grove.

In the RT News starting in January, i again began doing some "bookkeeping" to encourage you to save for the Yellowstone Retreat in 2006! i hope that several of you have been able to put this money aside so that you will be able to join us at this magnificent natural "garden" to honor the Lord and Lady. Also, i have continued to post the number of monthly forms received each month compared to the number of Member households. And i hope you are enjoying knowing how many of us are located in different parts of the continent.

At the Annual Retreat held at the Grove this year, i was not given any proxies for the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. Much of the formal Board meeting dealt with the Hermit's Grove, its relationship to the Rowan Tree

Church and some bylaws which will bring it more under the "umbrella" of the Rowan Tree's organization.

i continue to send out the two- and three-month reminders to Members who have not submitted Membership forms or responded during a past two or three month period. Current Membership lists are kept in the archives.

If you have any questions about your Membership status, or about my duties as Secretary, please send me a note. And please keep those monthly forms arriving at the Grove!

Blessings, gerry Beyerl

Scribe, Board of Directors

I began this year as an observer, later stepping in to temporarily fill the Scribe position as voting director, until such time as Tricia Youngquist can resume the position.

I appreciate the opportunity to act as Scribe and to be a part of the governing body that serves the Rowan Tree Church.

Respectively Submitted,

Jane Anderson

Board Observer

Being a Board Observer this year has really helped me get a feel for how things work within the Church. I now have a fairly good understanding of the issues facing the Board of Directors. I think we addressed some interesting issues this year including the Transitional Membership program for former prisoners. I think that the decision to formally connect The Hermits Grove to the Rowan Tree Church was a wise one. I am looking forward to the interesting discussions this will create over the next year.

Blessings, joy, and love! Dharma

The Unicorn



This has been a productive year for *The Unicorn*. Subscriptions have seen a 15% increase and we have added a new staff artist and two new staff writers, some of whom came to us through the Rowan Tree's Prisoner Outreach Program. We are also very pleased to have a new volunteer who is in training to become an assistant editor and is now learning the role of poetry editor to familiarize herself with the computer systems and other processes which lead to *The Unicorn's* production. A great uni-cheer to Dharma!

The Hallows issue in 2004 ce begins the 28th year of *The Unicorn*. [Twenty-eight years!!!] It is a reflection of the stability of The Rowan Tree Church and of the values of The Tradition of Lothloriën that *The Unicorn* remains in print and has a devoted following of readers. The history of *The Unicorn* reflects the origins of The Rowan Tree Church and, even, of The Hermit's Grove.

What started so simply as a chatty mail order for herbs and magickal things was quickly transformed into a publication which is among the oldest of Wiccan publications in North America. Part of this success and survival reflects the work ethic of Lothloriën: it is better to

be able to sustain one's commitments and meet one's obligations than to pursue growth and fame, both of which create far more work than one's ego foresees. We have seen well more than a hundred publications come and go.

But the greater part of *The Unicorn's* success is likely to be found through the evolution of the recognition within Lothloriën and awareness of so many of our readers that unicorns are, indeed, realities within the astral. Andrius stimulated my imagination to make space for him as an alter ego but that lasted but a brief time for he was a real personality and quickly made his presence known as a separate entity.

With my editor's hat keeping me warm,
Rev. Paul, editor

beginning of year	\$159.69
RT Member subscriptions	217.00
nonMember subscriptions	315.00
nonMember donations	23.97
sample packets	3.00
sales of <i>The Hatchling</i>	10.00
<i>Unicorns of Lothloriën</i>	128.05
fund-raising book sales	35.15
sample copies	6.00
prisoner donations	41.46
<u>total income</u>	<u>\$ 939.32</u>

postage	\$ 187.43
Rowan Tree News postage	14.29
Rowan Tree promotional postage	.60
web site expense	20.00
printing	297.78
general office expense	47.68
advertising	131.00
ritual items for Rowan Tree	18.45
telephone	55.25
recycling pickup	30.00
Public Storage	30.00
<u>total expenses</u>	<u>832.48</u>
balance	\$ 106.84

The Littlest Unicorn

This is the first year of my return to the editorship of *The Littlest Unicorn* newsletter. All the issues have been compiled and matched with illustrations. All editions have been produced and mailed on time. I wish to thank all the readers and contributors. Without you, we would not be publishing! The subscription base is loyal and stable.

In order to reduce some of the workload at The Hermit's Grove, the newsletter is now duplicated and mailed from Canada. Thank you for your support and the opportunity to be of service.

Your Friend, Jim Saigle



beginning of year	\$ 187.40
Member subscriptions	48.75
nonmember subscriptions	29.34
sample packet income	3.00
<u>sample issues</u>	<u>11.75</u>
total income	\$ 280.35

postage	\$ 32.40
printing	47.73
<u>general office</u>	<u>12.00</u>
total expense	\$ 93.13
balance	\$ 188.22

The Rowan Tree News

The *RTNews* has remained consistent. A few times it was necessary to print it on the laser printer here in my office. The printer was not very happy about being so overworked but the publishing schedule does not always allow for the drive to the University District of Seattle.

There have been no changes in the format and each issue continues to reflect the stability of the Rowan Tree. I'd like to thank the Members for taking the time to write our sweet Membership Secretary those interesting letters. Your letters are the best part of *The Rowan Tree News* and the time gerry spends typing them up to give me on a disk deserves loud cheers and the thanks and blessings from all.

I took the role of editor six years ago this coming December. Although the previous editor retired due to reasons of health I was more than ready. I wanted to restore the focus of the newsletter to the Church and its membership. I know that reading letters from other folk is typically everyone's highlight. Given the experience I have with nearly 30 years as editor/publisher of *The Unicorn* plus other editing and publishing, this is the easiest newsletter I manage. It's a joy and it's an honor.

The Rowan Tree News is a valued resource for it is one of the magickal adhesives which keeps this organization together despite international borders and vast continental differences.

Bless each of you for your part in this work.
Rev. Paul

The Mystery School

The Rowan Tree has been an 'open' organization for so many years that it is sometimes difficult for me to recall the first ten years (or so) when The Rowan Tree Church and The Mystery School were synonymous. And yet, one of the most important aspects of this past year's work has been taking my memory back into those very years.

In my 'spare' time I have been immersed in The



Tradition of Lothloriën's Book of Shadows. My work began with the first excerpt from the BOS that a new Novice Supplicant transcribes. There are three Sacred Keys which a new student studies and completes (the transcription, beginning the hand-writing of one's own Lothloriën Book of Shadows) prior to being Dedicated as a Novice. These have remain unchanged for more than twenty years. These final editing changes were for grammar and for an inclusive approach. Words such as 'priest' were changed to 'priest/ess,' and other forms of gender equality and punctuation were amended as most of the basic written Tradition is significantly older.

I began to realize that much of what had been Oral Tradition was showing signs of age, most of it contained within my own memory system and, as I will turn 60 this coming year, my memory shows signs of aging as well.

Many pages of written text are being added to the Book of Shadows as supplemental reading. Some of this contains history, some of it giving information and reasons for the Book of Shadows evolving as it did. This is valuable information for those who will become the teachers and Mentors of our Tradition. And for myself, it is a joy to take this time, to walk down those paths of remembrance.

There is Magick in words, a concept to which I frequently refer. And, as I take myself back to the late 1970s and early 1980s, some of those very same former students have been in communication with me.

During this past year we have continued to be a smaller working and studying group than in recent years. A lesson of the planet Saturn, this contraction has allowed for some profound growth. We celebrated the Ritual of Dedication of a new Novice and look forward to the Dedication of a second new Novice. We anticipate the potential for at least one First Degree Initiation. We are likely to take joy in the celebration of a second Yoking Ritual and, with two Initiates having openly declared to all of us that their goal is Ordination, we are moving toward a new step in the evolution of our future. We have more than five Rowan Tree Members who have expressed a strong desire to be admitted to The Mystery School and are working toward that goal. We will be more than ready to welcome them. In many ways this summer's tenth anniversary of the gardens of The Hermit's Grove brings The Tradition of Lothloriën into its next, and exciting, phase of manifestation.

Two works, one published by *The Unicorn* newsletter and one published by The Hermit's Grove, have furthered the knowledge of The Tradition of Lothloriën and the studies one completes in preparation to become a teacher. *The Unicorns of Lothloriën* and the spiral-bound book of ten years of tarot columns has been a fine accomplishment. There are two books expected for publication in this coming year, depending upon how freely the Universe provides me with spare time: one which will be the most extensive information on the making of a traditional amulet and the other which will be a songbook with the ritual music and chants of Lothloriën.

With so much uncompleted work before me it would seem the Universe thinks I do well as a laborer for the

Mother and She sees fit to keep me around for a while.

I am blessed to be living within Lothloriën.

Rev. Paul

beginning of year	\$ 157.20
calendar sales	73.80
tuition	803.25
nonmember donations	11.00
Colouring Book of Numbers	8.50
The Ritual of Lothloriën	58.00
The Child of Light	23.00
Sabbat Journeys	62.00
The Wheel of the Year	18.50
The Handfasting Ritual	10.00
Ritual for the Dead	17.00
The Yule Ritual	7.00
Lesser Banishing Pentagram	5.00
Ritual for Fall	5.00
Wicca 101 materials	15.00
Lothloriën 101 tapes	66.00
total income	\$ 1,340.25

postage	\$ 248.39
Board of Directors' postage	14.33
web site expense	60.00
printing	88.38
RT catalog printing	13.01
general office expense	74.47
book purchases for library	98.00
ritual materials expense	107.41
equipment expenses	62.99
telephone	247.25
propane (heating)	30.00
storage locker	70.00
portable toilet expense	46.00
credit card fees	10.00
total expense	\$ 1,170.23
balance	\$ 170.02

The Land Fund

The Land Fund is mandated by our Book of Legislation. We have been collecting monies for over fifteen years (perhaps closer to twenty) toward the goal of someday acquiring an acreage of sacred land (quite likely untillable) within the reaches of the Upper Mothervalley. The Land Fund is supported by Member donation and by a percentage of monies allocated from Mystery School tuition, and from ritual and spiral-bound book sales. Any blessings for a return to economic health for North America would increase interest rates which have fallen to a historic lows, affecting the return on the money placed into Certificates of Deposit.

total money placed into CDs	\$ 7,551.67
-----------------------------	-------------

CD interest to date	1,309.49
<u>total in Church checkbook end of year</u>	<u>589.99</u>
total land fund money	\$ 9,451.15
increase from last year	439.10

Subscription Library

We have seen some growth in the library this year (51 books) but the numbers do not show the (perhaps) 10-20 books which were removed and placed into the 'sale' shelf in the classroom. Progress has been made with the synopsis project. We have had several volunteers and presently our volunteer is Bob W., who has begun working his way through the Western occult and Magickal Traditions section. It's a very large collection of books and he has just begun but, upon the completion of any section of books, that catalog will be available to Members.

This past year I personally wrote synopses for **Unicorns**, as part of the completion of the new book *The Unicorns of Lothloriën*.

The card catalog project has been placed on hold. Over the past several years we've had three different volunteers but, at present, there is no one working on this endeavor.

With well-bound blessings, Rev. Paul

Botany & Gardening	94 books
Children's Books	74 books
Counselling and Wellness	77 books + 2
Death & Dying	25 books + 1
Fiction & Novels	405 books
Health & Wellness	123 books + 1
Herbals	261 books + 8
Miscellaneous	18 books + 1
Occult Sciences: Astrology	134 books + 2
Occult Sciences: Color	11 books
Occult Sciences: Divination & Misc. Arts	44 books
Occult Sciences: Dreams	13 books
Occult Sciences: Gems, Minerals and Metals	53 books
Occult Sciences: I Ching	13 books
Occult Sciences: Miscellaneous Disciplines	74 books
Occult Sciences: Numerology	15 books
Occult Sciences: Occult and Spiritual Herbalism & Healing	56 books + 8
Occult Sciences: Spell Magick	40 books
Occult Sciences: Tarot	67 books + 5
Philosophy and World View	96 books + 1
Poetry & Literature	61 books
World Religions and Mythologies	431 books + 3
Sexuality, Sexual Issues and Sexual Magick	69 books + 1
Spiritual Awakening	112 books
Unicorns	25 books + 3
Western Occult and Magickal Traditions	254 books + 2
Wicca, Neopaganism and Witchcraft	391 books + 13

(the + number indicates duplicate copies)

beginning balance	\$ 262.32
Member donations	21.97
portion of MS tuition	446.25

nonmember donations	100.00
sales of <i>Holy Books</i>	95.25
sales of <i>A Wiccan Bardo</i>	23.95
<u>book sales through Hermit's Grove</u>	<u>493.75</u>
total income	\$ 1,443.49

postage	\$ 21.03
web site fees	60.00
misc.	202.40
office expense	7.00
book purchases	868.55
ritual expenses	84.65
propane for heat	30.00
public storage	25.00
<u>credit card fees</u>	<u>10.00</u>
total expense	\$ 1,308.63
balance	134.86

Tape Library

With the difficulties Tricia Youngquist, our former Tape Librarian of many years, was having with her health, four large drawers which held the tape library were shipped to Kirkland. For some years there had been almost no interest among Members in checking out tapes on Rowan Tree history, past discussions, workshops and such topics.

With the Tape Library in Kirkland the slow process of my working through the majority of the tapes has begun, primarily a winter project as my summer schedule has no spare time. Many of the old tapes are ready to be retired. Some contain important information which I am transcribing and putting into printed form, a medium far more able to reach those who would benefit from the information and one which will more easily survive the aging process.

Sunday Circle tapes are now duplicated here at the Kirkland Office as well. When the first Sunday of the month is unusually busy, we might duplicate four or five tapes to send out, a task easily accomplished.

My goal for the coming year is to continue moving forward.

With an earful of blessings, Rev. Paul

beginning balance	\$ 67.08
Member donations	2.00
Sunday Circle/New Moon tape purchases	235.00
Ritual of Lothloriën tapes	10.00
Lothloriën 101 tapes	15.00
total income	\$ 329.08

postage	\$ 78.40
blank tape purchases	68.38
educational materials	33.30
computer expense	32.00
total expenses	\$ 212.08
balance	117.00

Periodical Archives

Nearly 30 years of periodical archives of publications (published by other organizations) are currently stored in Moline, Illinois thanks to the goodness of Tricia Youngquist. Many are too fragile with age for much beyond continued storage and none would survive being in circulation. Every so often someone has a goal of beginning to preserve this priceless resource in a digital format (in earlier times microfilm was contemplated). These materials are the true history of modern Wicca!

opening balance	\$ 119.39
5% allocation of Member donations	153.73
<u>sample packet allocation</u>	<u>3.00</u>
total income	\$ 276.12
postage	\$ 21.00
<u>printing</u>	<u>69.68</u>
expenses	\$ 90.68
balance	185.44

The Prisoner Outreach Program

The Prisoner Outreach Program continues to evolve since I took over its management nearly five years ago. During my guidance the POP has admitted nearly 120 individuals (under 10% are women) with an average enrollment of 25. To their great credit, many prisoners send not only extra stamps to help the POP and Church meet its expenses, but several send donations by check as well and a few have purchased books and more. Given how difficult it is for a prisoner to come by money, this is highly commendable.

Based upon experience and observation this year a "transitional membership" program was established which both aids a former prisoner in making a decision about involvement with The Tradition of Lothloriën while also balancing life on the 'outside.' It is relatively easy for a prisoner to maintain a studious spiritual lifestyle while in prison but once faced with the job market (which is not welcoming) and the challenges of life in a society which, for many, has changed dramatically, and the potential for temptations and lapses into old behavior patterns, the transitional program allows the individual to explore one's ability to make a commitment to The Rowan Tree Church and to keep it. It is important that the individual as well as The Rowan Tree Church be able to determine whether a commitment to The Tradition of Lothloriën is compatible with the former prisoner's life out of prison.

Prisoners are given access to *The Rowan Tree News* as well as most of the important published works (*A Wiccan Bardo*, *Revisited*, *The Holy Books of the Devas*, *The Ritual of Lothloriën*, *The Sabbat Journeys*, etc.) for which they are asked to send us stamps (or an equivalent) to cover the cost of postage and a portion of the cost of printing (etc.). They also have an opportunity to work on written assignments and to grow within the Tradition of Lothloriën.

The Prisoner Outreach Program has given many individuals spiritual strength, the opportunity to learn and grow and the potential of bringing change to their lives. Reading the excerpts from their letters which are published in *The Rowan Tree News* demonstrates how well this program is working.

Although it takes time I cannot easily find, working with the POP is rewarding.

With blessings, Rev. Paul

Lay-Ministers and Minstrels

This past year has been one of slower activity for the Lay-ministry and Lay-minstrel program of the Rowan Tree. Two of the four current Lay-ministers have had health problems which caused them to step back from active ministry at this time. We are all hopeful that they will find health and energy to return to full ministry capabilities in the coming year.

We did have someone ask for and work through most of the requirements for a Lay-minstrel this past year. That person, however, decided that they needed to order their own life a bit more before the final steps were taken for certification. We hope that this person will eventually decide to complete the work and to join in this aspect of ministry.

i have been working at the Grove with guests and visitors, to help them understand and enjoy the gardens and plants. i have also been assisting Rev. Paul in Sunday Circle discussions and in Ritual work. As a Member of the Galadhrim, i have also been working the Child of Light several times this past year. And i have been the "supervisor" of this program.

Blessings, gerry B., Lay-Minister

This year my Ministry has taken the form of writing articles for *The Littlest Unicorn*. I have written general interest and crafting pieces. A series of articles introducing the practices of The Tradition of Lothloriën is underway. These articles may be printed and bound together as a sort of "Lothloriën 101" at a later date. The work is meaningful and the feedback is rewarding. I look forward to continuing through the next year.

In service, Jim Saigle, Lay-Minister

The Galadhrim Society of Unicorns

The Galadhrim Society of Unicorns is a herd of (currently) 8 Unicorns who desire to give additional service to the Rowan Tree beyond the participation as a Member sending in donations and forms. This is accomplished through extra activities and projects which are (hopefully) beneficial to the Members of the Church. Each Galadhrim Member submits an idea of the activity they would like to do as a service to the Church. Each may change service offered at any time, if they feel that their current project is not "working" for the Membership.

It has been my honor and duty to communicate with

the other Unicorns, to let them know how we are all doing and to remind them of their commitment to support, and communicate with, each other, as well as offering service and encouragement to the Members of the Rowan Tree Church. Currently, the Unicorns are offering services of many types to the Church Members and each other; many of the services are available through the "classified ad" section of the RTNews. Please remember that any Church Member may join. If you are interested in becoming part of the Galadhrim, contact me at the Grove for more information.

The Child of Light healing rituals have been, are, and will continue to be a major focus of our group working. Many thanks to each Member of the Church that has made a request for energies. Your requests help us to stay focused on the importance of this working. We would always like to hear how our working of this ritual has brought relief or extra energy to those whose requests we have honored. We had a very good time working the ritual during the Annual Retreat at the Hermit's Grove this year; each morning we gathered with other Rowan Tree Members and worked two of the blessings for those who had requested. It was a wonderful way to start each day.

Each Unicorn has been asked to submitted a brief statement about their service for the past twelve months. I hope these responses from the Unicorns about what they have been doing in service for the Church during this past year is helpful to you in understanding how the Church Members are important.

In Service, felaróf

The Child of Light Ritual is the primary healing ceremony in the Tradition of Lothloriën. This has been my focus of service during the last "trip around the Sun." Both my mother and my mother-in-law are dealing with cancer issues. I offer positive energy to them, to the COL list, our Church, and the Earth.

Blessed Be! Keerdan

Odonata and her human continue to make their sewing services available to current Rowan Tree Members in need of ritual robes. This Autumn we hope to make and donate tarot card bags to the Church for sale as a fund-raiser. Keep your hooves crossed that we find time to do it..

Odonata

Although health issues still limit my activity and I am still unable to read, I was able to teach the Basic Wicca Course that I developed and which uses examples from Lothloriën and "A Wiccan Bardo, Revisited." There has also been some communication with the BOD and Rev. Paul and Gerry during the year, as well as some working of the Child of Light ritual, thanks to the lists that serve as a reminder from Amalthea. Lothloriën is in my thoughts daily and it is good to see how the roots deepen as the years pass.

Sordimon

This last year has been very difficult for me due to many medical issues. Consequently, I was not able to serve

the herd as I wanted to. I have, however, contacted some of the herd, albeit not as much as I would like. I am hoping to be more in contact during the next year. I still have occasional bad periods, but they are becoming less frequent. I am hoping to be a more active Member of the herd for the coming year.

Thank You All & Be Blessed. Valerian

As a Member of the Galadhrim, I send out the names of the requests for the Child of Light ritual each month. I also send any other announcements about the Galadhrim. Amalthea

It is hard to believe that another year has flown by and I am again writing about my participation in the Galadhrim. My service for the Rowan Tree this year has included my work on the Board of Directors, including providing input into the discussions arising from the monthly agendas. I have also served as Treasurer, assisting with the quarterly audits. It had been my thought to design a fund raising project for the Church, and although I have a project in mind, I haven't yet had the time to implement it due to changing positions at work and various other reasons. I am hoping to do so in the next month. My work last year on the cookbook project was a learning experience, and I hope to be able to continue learning and growing while benefiting the Rowan Tree at the same time.

But belonging to the Galadhrim does not only provide a venue for service to the Church. I also get great benefit from the communication with other Galadhrim Members during the year. As a solitary practitioner, belonging to the Galadhrim presents the opportunity to have contact with other Church Members, something that I would not have if I were not a Member. I have the chance to learn about their lives, to hear about what they are working on, and just getting to know them better. This is a wonderful part of belonging to the herd, and one I would encourage for others who want to feel more connected to and serving the Rowan Tree.

Blessings. Carling

My service within the Galadhrim slowed to a stop this year while my human went through some significant life changes. But here we are now with new pastures to graze and new adventures to be had! My human is setting up the glass workshop and should have some new stars, and new designs before this calendar year ends.

Goddess Blessings and Fairy Kisses. Moon Dancer

Hi. I'm the Unicorn known as Freyr and, as of this writing, the newest Member in the Galadhrim. I also think I'm among the luckiest of the Unicorns! My service to the Church is writing synopses for books in the marvelous Rowan Tree Library. I just have gotten started, but I'm really enjoying the task. If I ever was to be imprisoned for life, but could pick the location, it would be the library at the Hermit's Grove. In return for my service of providing synopsis, I'm able to read and be exposed to a wide range of information. I encourage all to take advantage of the Rowan Tree Library. It's one of a kind! Freyr