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The Rowan Tree Church 1995- 1996 Annual Report

Rowan Tree Church

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The Rowan Tree Church



1995-1996 Annual Report

for the Religious and Fiscal Year
from Hallows, 1995 ce through Hallows, 1996 ce

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OPENING REMARKS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

REV. PAUL V. BEYERL, GENERAL MANAGER

November 1st, 1996 ce

Dear Member,

When the year began, last November 1st, our Church checking account had a balance of \$1,816.66. While this may seem like a large sum of money to you, The Rowan Tree Church is well known for the exceptionally large number of ministries it sponsors.

We have been incorporated since February 4, 1980 and hold legal recognition with specific goals as part of our Articles of Incorporation. Our goals are clear. We are to provide the facilities for worship, provide for the training of "fully qualified ministers" and to provide for religious education for those seeking membership and for the general public. That's it, plain and simple.

Our primary work is The Mystery School. Working quietly behind the scenes, it is through The Mystery School that our beloved Tradition of Lothloriën is cultivated and nurtured. It is through the work of The Mystery School that the Church's future will be ensured. Since the publication of A Wiccan Bardo in 1989 the core of our belief system has been available to the general public.

But we do so much more work. The work most visible to you, our Members, is the Rowan Tree News which is sent to *every Member* regardless of any person's ability to provide financial donations to the Church. In addition to providing the Rowan Tree News for its Members, it publishes The Unicorn for the larger Community and The Littlest Unicorn for children and their parents. We provide a library of 3,000 books available by subscription for Members. We have a library of cassette tapes and make copies of a monthly Sunday Circle recorded at The Hermit's Grove available through this same service. We maintain a collection of publications representing twenty years of modern Wiccan history. In an average year we collect the issues from twenty or more publications from North America and sometimes beyond. While it is too fragile to make available, it is a priceless resource, one we hope will someday be placed on microfilm or CD for future generations.

All in all, it has been an excellent year and we thank you. The Church's general budget represents the income and expenses separate from The Mystery

School, libraries, The Unicorn and The Littlest Unicorn. We began the year with a deficit of \$180.12.

With careful financial management and the generosity of our Members, we end this year able to maintain our monthly expenses. It is easy for you to think of the Church as only needing the expense money to print and mail the Rowan Tree News, but there are many more and we hope that this Annual Report will be informative and that reading it will be both interesting and educational. Here are the basic totals for the different budgets within the Church. They show the balance at the beginning and end of this fiscal year.

beginning	Budget Name	ending
-\$180.12	General Budget	\$290.00
192.82	The Mystery School	82.03
135.65	Subscription Library	171.25
- 33.91	Periodical Library	5.27
65.23	The Unicorn	33.63
45.99	The Littlest Unicorn	118.52
4.90	Annual Retreat Budget	55.00
40.00	Minnesota Agent Fund	30.00
\$1,510.25	Land Fund	\$1,850.47

This past year the Land Fund was removed from the checking account and placed in an interest-bearing money market account. The account, opened in March, has to date brought us \$32.90 in interest. Temporary monies placed in this account include the sales tax money for both the Church and also The Hermit's Grove which is payable to the State of Washington in January. This provides an additional (albeit small) source of interest revenue.

Member donations were \$3,599.60, averaging \$299.97 per month. This averaged \$10.00 per Member per month given to the Church's general budget, which does not include money for subscriptions, tuition, purchases of books, etc. With approximately 30 supporting Members, many of whom can afford only a couple of dollars a month, we must all express gratitude for those Members who provide for the bulk of the Church's needs.

Where does this money go? Unless you donate your money to a specific cause (i.e. some money has been earmarked for The Littlest Unicorn), 5% of all donations are put in the Periodical Library, which provided \$176.83 of its total \$203.38 income.

To give you a better idea of Church costs, if we combine some basic expenses from all of the budgets, the following figures appear:

postage	\$2,258.99
printing	843.10
telephone	977.53
office supplies	801.43

Looking only at the Church's general budget (not including The Mystery School, TU, TLU or libraries) the following is the year's income and expense report:

income	
Member donation (95% of total)	\$2,781.41
donations toward fax machine	77.54
Wicca 101 donations	150.72
sample package (50%/sale)	65.50
miscellaneous & nonmember don.	3.81

fund-raising income	
calendar sales	\$100.00
Merry Meet notepaper	37.60
<u>t-shirt sales (@ \$5.00)</u>	<u>42.00</u>
total income	\$ 3,258.58

expenses	
beginning deficit	\$180.12
advertising	55.00
bank fees	18.95
postal expense	901.25
printing costs	90.35
Rowan Tree News	412.69
repair & maintenance	247.50
telephone	367.00
toilet rental	316.47
rental for records storage	200.00
travel costs	23.60
legal expense	10.00
office supplies	174.65
<u>misc. ritual supplies</u>	<u>22.00</u>
total expenses	3019.58
end of year General Budget balance	239.00

And where did it all go? Let's examine just this Annual Report. It took telephone, duplicating, postage and fax expense (not to mention volunteer time) for all the individual reports to end up on my desk. For me to prepare this publication it takes a computer and printer (with ink cartridges and paper), adding machine and time. We still must prepare mailing labels, take the final draft for duplication, use a return address stamp, envelopes and postage and only then are we ready to put it together to mail. Not to mention that my computer is short on memory and twice I lost my work and had to reboot it. My personal investment in time *just for the Annual Report* will easily run more than thirty hours as President of the Board, Eldermentor of The Mystery School, bookkeeper and general office flunky.

But this is only the tip of the pyramid: don't forget what it takes to send you your Welcome Packet, to send all Members their letters and reminders; to return telephone calls when people are in crisis or lonely or needing information; preparing and mailing hundreds of pamphlets, flyers and advertising pages to people who are interested...

The average Member will never grasp the enormity of the work involved in this Church - *your* Church. This Annual Report represents the core group of dedicated workers who love Lothloriën, who love The Rowan Tree Church and who love you, one of its best Members!

Please read this report. Learn from it. Write with questions. The future of your Church is in your hands.



Annual Reports: Board of Directors

My perspective of our Church is one based upon many years' involvement. As this Annual Report comes your way, The Unicorn will begin its twentieth year. This coming winter will be the twentieth anniversary of my own First Degree Initiation. Frankly, my friends, this passage of time is mind boggling...

When we first began, we didn't know we were 'beginning.' In the 1970's we began meeting in my apartment on Oak Grove. Every Sunday morning about ten of us would gather. In addition to New and Full Moon Rituals and Sabbath Rituals, Sunday Circles were an essential part of our existence. With the growth of The Unicorn and the sense of community that was growing, it became apparent that we were more than a casual coven.

We acquired a name, 'The Rowan Tree Church,' selected from the magickal trees of the European myths to function as our own Tree of Life. The Rowan survives great storms and severe climactic changes.

Now we have Members scattered throughout North America. We have weathered our own 'storms' as we've grown and clarified our future. As it is with all groups, over the years not all wanted the same goals and departed, but who we are today is a very unified, working group of people. We are blessed by our actual being.

What has made this past year significant was a Board of Directors who have been cohesive and committed, providing your Church with solid stability. Although rarely congratulated or seeing their work appreciated, I'd like to ask you, as a Church Member, to take a minute or two and send a note of appreciation to the RTNews editor so those who do the work know that it is not in vain.

Over the past year the Church has both maintained stability in its membership and added several financial responsibilities which prepare it for the future. Monthly commitments now include the renting of a storage locker to house our records and archives and paying half of the rental fee for a portable toilet and its servicing in order that students, Members and guests may participate in Church activities at The Hermit's Grove.

It is this environment which has led to the Board's tentative acceptance of an acre of sacred land offered by Rev. Paul and Gerry Beyerl, which will be managed by The College of Mentors of The Mystery School, pending the results of the Membership's voting upon an amendment to the Church's by-laws ('The Book of Legislation').

In addition to the land acquisition, the other significant activity before the 1996-1997 Board of Directors is acquiring legal recognition of our Church by the Canadian government. This work is being coordinated by our Vice President, Rev. Ron Weroski.

Among the many tasks which come with this position, I am also the General Manager, managing the Church's finances, purchasing supplies and books and also take the role of bookkeeper. This past summer I completed a lengthy manual which guides a Treasurer through the bookkeeping program I use and the manner in which it has been set up to handle the accounting needs of your Church. It is hoped that this will foster a better knowledge of the needs and activities of the Church through the Treasurer.

The local community here at The Hermit's Grove has seen renewed growth and attendance at Sunday Circles and Rituals has been very solid. We have only been working to develop a local Community for about a year and a half. With Members present for all Sunday Circles and rituals being worked with six or seven committed Members, we work to bring vitality to our Church.

As the "new year" begins, the most dramatic difference is found in the Rowan Tree News. With our former editor, Kim Godwin, completing her volunteer year and stepping down, we are honored that the position has been taken by our Canadian clergyman, Rev. Ron. This heralds a major change with the Church's most important publication now having a very strong focus upon our Tradition of Lothloriën and upon our Rowan Tree Church. Rev. Ron edits and prepares the copy then transmits it to The Hermit's Grove by fax. The office here is responsible for having it duplicated and mailed. Our Church is moving into the coming year with vigor.

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl
President, Board of Directors

This past year within The Rowan Tree Church has seen a marked improvement in our situation. Members have increased their donations to the Church and the Board of Directors has been operating well and getting things taken care of in a timely fashion. In many senses, the Church is beginning to 'grow up' and this is important. There were many issues brought up to the BOD which required serious and timely discussion. The BOD is to be commended for the fine work that has been accomplished in this past year's cycle.

Among the issues facing the Board this year was the gracious offer of the Beyerls to donate an acre of The Hermit's Grove to The Rowan Tree Church to be used by our Membership as Sacred Land. The BOD has agreed to move forward with this issue and, as a result, the Church Membership will be approached in order to amend our Book of Legislation. It was decided that *all* Sacred Land donated to the Church should be under the guidance of The College of Mentors. This is a wonderful gift that we must work at preserving for the future generations within the Church and The Mystery School.

Our financial situation has improved this past year, primarily due to increased awareness among the Membership that their support is crucial to the functioning of the Church. In the immediate future, we

will not be a wealthy organization to be sure, but it is the support of our Membership that keeps The Rowan Tree Church alive and able to function in the manifest world. We can only offer the services that we do through the support of our Membership.

Obtaining a permit for bulk mailings to be sent from The Hermit's Grove has allowed us to contact far more people for a fraction of the cost. This will improve the odds of generating income for the Church through its various books, spiral-bound rituals and other fund-raising tools. Many thanks are due to Jim Saigle and Lizard. Both of these individuals are responsible for providing wonderful fund-raising gifts for our Church Membership. Jim provided us with Rowan Tree t-shirts and Lizard created a Wiccan calendar which follows Lothloriën's Wheel of the Year. Both items are delightful.

This year saw the installation of the new Fax machine at The Hermit's Grove. This has already improved communication for the Board of Directors as well as The College of Mentors, as was evident at this year's Annual Meeting.

The forms for non-profit status have been filled out and filed with the Registrar General's Office here in Ontario. This will provide legal status for our Clergy in Ontario, giving them the same benefits enjoyed by our sisters and brothers within the United States.

All in all this has been a quiet year with steady growth and maturity. We are moving forward into the future and preparing to meet the challenges set before us. Many of the seeds planted last year are beginning to bring forth a good harvest. It is the hard work and dedication of many who have worked this Magick. It is the support of each of us which made this Work possible. Let us continue to see the role that Lothloriën plays in each of our lives.

Rev. Ron Weroski
Vice President, Board of Directors

The position of Scribe is one of dual responsibility. One of those obligations is more specifically what one would think of as a Scribe, that is to 'attend' the Board meetings and report on them through an article in the RTNews. Although this is not generally a time-consuming job, it is important to non-Board Members who are interested in the decision-making processes of the Church.

The second function is that of assistant auditor and involves basically double-checking the financial records of the Church on a monthly or quarterly basis. It

is a fairly simple process when everything goes smoothly. Things have not been running well this year and the system became clogged but this was a temporary situation.

Tricia Youngquist
Scribe, Board of Directors

I am completing another year as Secretary. In this capacity, I have enjoyed receiving the monthly forms, notes and letters sent in by the Members. I have also enjoyed responding to these forms and letting people know that the forms and any supporting donations which were sent have arrived safely in Kirkland. Part of this correspondence has sometimes been printed in the RT News. Every form receives a response.

The Membership of the Church has been fairly constant, remaining between 44 and 47 Members. Reports of monthly numbers are sent as part of my Board of Directors response each month, keeping the Board aware of how many new Members we have and of the number of Members that have been dropped for not submitting monthly forms for more than three months.

Sample and Welcome packets have been sent in a timely manner, some resulting in subscriptions to our publications or new Members joining the Church. Reminder notes have been sent to Members who fall behind on monthly forms for two or three months.

I have appreciated the opportunity to be of service and encouragement to the Membership and look forward to serving in this capacity in the coming year.

gerry Beyerl
Secretary, Board of Directors

Having held the position of Treasurer for most of the past year, I'd like to say I am now far more familiar with what it costs to maintain the activities of the Church. Unfortunately, events in my personal life prevented me from giving this job the level of attention it really needed. I agree with Rev. Paul that an improved level of communication between the Treasurer and the general Membership would substantially help our budgetary concerns. I believe the new Treasurer is more than equal to the task.

As Treasurer, I have been able to see firsthand how the Church gets things done. Sometimes the process is painfully slow but, overall, I think it's rewarding. I am pleased to be involved.

Dawn Heather Simmons
Treasurer, Board of Directors (retired)

Since I have only recently assumed the role of Treasurer for the Board, I don't have anything to report. My goals for the coming year are to complete each quarterly audit in a timely manner and write and report for the RTNews to inform Members of the financial condition of the Church. I also hope to work with Jim Saigle, head of the fund-raising committee and Rev. Ron and the Galadhrim to improve the Church's finances.

Donna Lewin
Treasurer, Board of Directors

I have finished the first edition of *The Rowan Tree Calendar and Planning Guide* and it is now available through the Church office. If we find that there is an audience for this publication then I will become part of a new committee to continue this project into the next few years.

Lizard Frank, nonvoting Director
Calendar Committee Chairperson

Church Publications

In addition to the following figures, the Rowan Tree news requires telephone and fax machine expense. It takes mailing labels and stamps and there is correspondence to answer. There are many costs which do not appear because the Rowan Tree News is funded through the General Budget.

The Rowan Tree News

postage	\$218.74
printing	193.95
simple expenses	412.69

It has been ten months (in September) since I took over as editor of the RTNews and I have enjoyed the experience of watching the involvement and interest in the Church grow with time. I have appreciated each and every article, drawing or letter I have received from the Members, particularly John Patterson and Tricia Youngquist. Also, whenever I was running low on articles, I extend unlimited thanks to gerry, Rev. Paul, Rev. Ron and Cris Bear who always managed to come up with a continuous supply of informative articles to share with the general Membership through the RTNews. Interest has been expressed by the Membership in having more informative, how-to articles about the Wiccan Path. I hope that those who have something to contribute would extend knowledge or experience to others who haven't the free access to such information in the future. I hope this is a direction

that can be pursued via the RTNews. Members, please contribute what you can and let us continue to see the RTNews grow into a loving product of our creativity and commitment.

Kim Godwin
Editor, RTNews (retired)

The Unicorn

beginning balance	\$65.23
income from paid advertising	132.00
subscription fees	400.00
<u>sample issues</u>	<u>46.65</u>
total income	643.88
office supplies & repairs	137.73
postage	265.02
<u>printing costs</u>	<u>207.50</u>
total expense	610.25
ending balance	33.63

It is quite remarkable to note that this is the year **The Unicorn** begins its twentieth year of publication. With the autumn issue it was necessary to increase the basic North American subscription fee from \$10.00 to \$13.00. This is one of the very few price increases in **The Unicorn's** history.

We have seen a 10% increase in paid subscriptions. 'The Hatchling,' a fictional work which includes Church activities and some of the lore of Lothlorien remains popular. 'Unicorns of All Persuasion,' which is contained within the opening letter by our Unicorn, Andrius, also provides access to our Church's Mysteries which relate to the Sabbats.

We are blessed with the artwork of a Rowan Tree Member, John Patterson, which adds beauty to each issue of this highly regarded publication. **The Unicorn** continues to be produced on a Macintosh, using a Logitech scanner for all artwork and images. The production is handled by myself with regular articles provided by Church Members. We thank gerry Beyerl for his outstanding, two-year series on the Sabbats and look forward to Tricia Youngquist's work which will be appearing in this year's cycle. **The Unicorn** merits your interest. It remains one of the most affordable publications on the market. It is the most important facet of our Church which led to our being open to Members living in other parts of the world. If you are not a subscriber to **The Unicorn**, you are missing a joyful experience!

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl
Editor, The Unicorn

The Littlest Unicorn

The Littlest Unicorn provided us with a dramatic turning around of its existence. The editors have done an impressive job. In addition, the Board spearheaded a fund-raising drive to provide money to be used for advertising. TLU's budget includes this money waiting to be spent on promotional work.

beginning balance	\$45.99
donated advertising money	112.04
subscriptions	107.75
<u>samples, etc.</u>	<u>54.65</u>
total income	320.43
postal expense	69.77
printing	129.14
<u>miscellaneous</u>	<u>3.00</u>
total expenses	201.91
ending balance	\$118.52

The Littlest Unicorn has undergone a format change this year. Three women now work together to make TLU interesting for pagan children. We have increased our subscribers and are working to make TLU a solvent publication. The Littlest Unicorn has come out on time and in a new computer quality form, filled with artwork and activities. We look forward to exchanges with several other pagan publications and to increasing our number of readers this coming year. Cris Bear

Editor, The Littlest Unicorn

Church Libraries

Subscription Library

beginning balance	\$135.65
book revenue sold by the Hermit's Grove	485.29
25% of Mystery School tuition	868.94
donations	69.14
<u>book sales through Church</u>	<u>802.77</u>
total income	2,361.09
books purchased for sale	1,325.24
telephone	101.28
fax machine	54.28
printing	172.16
office supplies	289.39
postage/shipping	199.99
<u>miscellaneous costs</u>	<u>47.50</u>
total expenses	2,189.84
ending balance	\$171.25

How does the library run up such expenses? The truth, dear Member, is that the library's book sale program provides it with solid income. When I am paying the bills (as General Manager) for the entire Church, I often provide an 'invisible' subsidy. Those office supply expenses, for example, not only paid for the pockets and cards for the books but also for envelopes and paper we've used in corresponding with you! Amazing, isn't it?

The Subscription library has been reasonably busy. Dozens of new titles were added through The Unicorn's donor program, donations from Members (we extend great thanks to Donna Lewin) and through purchase. Many books are kept in use through The Mystery School although readership among other Church Members has been quite low. The compilation of a new catalog has been slow, delayed due to the absence of a volunteer. The volunteer Member who offered help this past year ran into difficulties when changes in her life got in the way.

Once the gardening season slowed I began setting aside time. At year's end, all sections of the library except Herbals, Health and Wellness, Gardening and Botany and about a dozen books under Miscellaneous have been catalogued. In addition to taking inventory and creating a new catalog, some books are being set aside for repair and all books are being marked with labels, identifying them both by category and as property of The Rowan Tree Church.

Within the first two months of this new year (or, by the end of 1996) we intend to offer a spiral-bound edition of the library catalog which will list all of the approximately 3,000 titles. For obvious reasons, providing a description of each title is not feasible but, as Librarian, I am always willing to provide assistance in helping you locate the best books we have for your research and study. Plans for this year include recording one or more tapes which take the listener on a 'guided tour' of the library.

Rev. Paul Beyerl, Head Librarian

Tape Library

This past year with the Tape Library has been educational. Due to some questions raised by one of the Church Members, I was inspired to play through all of the tapes in the Library. This was a serious undertaking as I listened to each and every tape on both sides, from beginning to end. While I did not completely absorb all of the information I listened to, I do have a better idea of what is there. I plan to go through the Sunday Circle

tapes which have been made since I have held this position and decide which ones will be kept. They will then be added to the catalog along with some which I have donated.

Tricia Youngquist, Tape Librarian

[Funding for the tape library's budget is provided by the Subscription Library and The Mystery School.]

Periodical Library

Beginning this year in the red, the primary support is derived by a 5% allocation from Member donations and from the money derived from the sale of "sample packets." Library costs include the exchange program costs (e.g. postage and printing of *The Unicorn* sent to other publications). It is also subsidized by the Subscription Library under the management of the Head Librarian.

Member donations	176.83
<u>sample packets & misc.</u>	<u>26.55</u>
total income	203.38

beginning balance	- \$33.91
postage	89.49
printing	73.00
<u>misc.</u>	<u>1.71</u>
total expenses	<u>198.11</u>

ending balance	5.27
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I have been working off and on this year on clearing space in order to properly shelve the Periodical Library. It is much more of a challenge than expected but it is being met with enthusiasm. It has been a project which has come to involve almost the entire house, almost like a domino effect every time I move something. I suspect the Universe is trying to tell me something! The work will continue until it is finished.

Tricia Youngquist, Periodical Librarian

The Mystery School

Income for The Mystery School is primarily derived from student tuition. 5% of the tuition paid goes to the Land Fund, 25% to the Subscription Library and 25% is sent to the Mentors and Bardmaster to subsidize their expenses. The remaining 45% is combined with

money derived from the sale of rituals and spiral-bound books through the Mystery School publishing program. The following does not include the above library budgets:

beginning balance	\$192.82
miscellaneous donations	27.50
tuition (45%)	1,655.07
<u>sales of spiral-bound books</u>	<u>355.49</u>
total income	2,230.88

book purchases	104.40
telephone and fax	441.53
toilet rental	92.50
records storage rent	40.00
ritual supplies	123.80
printing expenses	226.82
postage	569.38
office equip. & repair	119.63
<u>office supplies & misc.</u>	<u>430.79</u>
total expenses	<u>2,148.85</u>

ending balance	82.03
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This year we saw the celebration as a Novice was brought forth through Initiation to become a Priestess. In addition we have two more Novices we expect to see become Initiates this coming year. One Novice has recently completed her Orals and is now working at the second level and we expect another to follow in the near future. Congratulations are in order to all. As this Annual Report is being prepared and as 1996 comes to a close, The Mystery School will be accepting two new students, offering them the opportunity to take their first steps within the Path of Lothloriën which leads to our Church's inner mysteries. Should they be successful, they will some day emerge with the knowledge of Lothloriën which is required to be recognized by us, by the public and by our governments as a legally-qualified Minister or Bard.

Beginning with the summer of 1995 extending into early this Spring, we offered the privilege of entry into The Mystery School to eight new candidates who had submitted their requests. As we have learned over the past fifteen years, it is often a case of 'many are called, but few are chosen.' Many are inspired upon reading A Wiccan Bardo but cannot begin to understand the deeper layers of meaning nor the realities of a functional Tradition and legally-recognized Church. Candidates cannot become students if they wear rose-colored glasses or are unable to grasp Lothloriën's

realities. Of those applicants, four remain with us. Two of these are enrolled in the Bardic Path, studying with Thomas Berkham.

We have also seen two students return following Leaves of Absence. The Mystery School continues, quietly, to dedicate itself to the educational process which guarantees the survival of Lothloriën. The average student (whether Novice or Initiate) is very committed to Lothloriën's future, willing to endure the trials which arise having asked the Universe to bring us growth and wisdom, temperance and change.

We within Lothloriën recognize that The Mystery School provides some of the most challenging yet most rewarding Pathworking, that it guides the student into sometimes painful changes in order to come face to face with the Mysteries. Those within The Mystery School embrace their commitments which are the same as a life-long accepting of a religious lifestyle. Working within the veil of invisibility until they emerge as Initiated Bards or Ordained Clergy, we ask you to remember them when you are sharing your blessings.

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl
Eldermentor, The Mystery School

This year has seen two Bardic students become Dedicated. Both are now working on The First Ordeal. They are both wonderful students who have shown a great deal of talent already. I should like to think that it shall not be too long before they are well on their road toward Initiation. This past year our first Bard emerged from The Mystery School. On October 31, 1995, Donna Lyon Rhose became a Bard of Lothloriën.

Constructive work has been done on the formatting of The Third Ordeal for Bardic Students. There is a strong vision on how it shall proceed and I have strong hopes of completing that within another year's cycle after Samhain.

Much is happening quickly as I am being given many insights into a Bard's function through trance work that shall have an impact on how the Bardic Studies proceed. However, most of that work shall probably have more to do with The First Ordeal than The Third Ordeal.

With many blessings,
Thomas Berkham, Bardmaster



The Galadhrim - Society of Unicorns

Lord and Lady,
Powers of the Four Directions
Ancestors and future Selves, Bless us,
This Society of Unicorns called Galadhrim;
Those of us with deep love for our Church,
Those of us with deep love for our Tradition,
Join us together in Perfect Love and Trust
To become the Rowan Tree's
and Lothloriën's champions,
To become a family strong and fertile
in unconditional service.
Blessed Be.
by Kefa

The Galadhrim has been in existence within our Church for the past six years. We are a service organization of The Rowan Tree Church. Currently with eleven Members, our goal is to help support The Rowan Tree Church and to preserve The Tradition of Lothloriën. Working to support the Board of Directors as well as the Church's clergy, we offer five different Ministries to the Community of The Rowan Tree: The Lay Ministry Program, coordinated by Gerry Beyerl, is a leadership program for those interested in working with Church Communities at a non-Clergy level; The Prisoner Outreach program run by Dawn Heather Simmons and Lizard Cordeiro is a support system for Church Members who are prison inmates; The Child of Light Healing Rituals are coordinated by Rev. Ron, monthly rituals for those in need of positive, healing energies; and the newest Ministry, assisting the BOD with fund-raising has been taken on by our newest Galadhrim member.

The entire Galadhrim is responsible for the Church's Annual Retreat. It has also been the decision of The College of Mentors that those seeking admittance to The Mystery School will spend at least six months working as an active Galadhrim Member as preparation for entry into the Church's inner workings. All prospective Mystery School students are required to study the contents of the Lay Ministry course.

There has been discussion this year within the Galadhrim concerning its function within the Church. Many of those in the Society also hold two or three other positions within the Church structure. The greatest strength in the Galadhrim is the people who do the work; the downfall is the burnout that we can all feel at times. Even though we may not physically be

together, we are in spirit. The Galadhrim presently needs to look at its function on a more personal level. Discussion has included a more direct focus on the Membership corresponding with a personal level at the lesser Sabbats. Work and play are a part of the Galadhrim and we must find a balance. Due to the distance between our members we must seek to be more cohesive.

It is also important to remember that the Galadhrim is still 'young.' It, too, must explore and find the best way of function through collective experience. This is where we are presently. There has been an increase in both communication and in actual work, yet all members are encouraged to participate more fully. We are all in this together and it is important to see that through this work we support each other.

This is the last year I will be holding the office of coordinator or Head Horn. At the next Annual Retreat a new Unicorn must take on this role. I feel a change is for the best. I will be happy to continue as coordinator of the Child of Light Rituals.

I would like to invite any within our Church Membership to look into the Galadhrim. We certainly have room to grow in numbers and could use more hands and more ideas for the work we are doing. Things such as writing one letter a month to a prisoner, participating in Ritual, offering a workshop for the Retreat or sharing ideas for fundraising are all things which are concrete expressions of service. They are but a few of the means in which we can all make Lothloriën and Her Ideals manifest in the world. And with that I leave you with the Prayer of the Galadhrim:

Rev. Ron Weroski
The Galadhrim, Coordinator

As Coordinator and contact person for the Galadhrim Lay-Ministry/Minstrel program, I feel moved to encourage any Church Member interested in forming a local group of Rowan Tree Church people to work in this program.

Although several Members have written requesting information about the program, only two have continued to pursue this certification. I am currently the only Lay-Minister, and there is one other person who has continued to work on the requirements. I am hopeful that person will complete them within the next few months.

We of the Galadhrim would be pleased to have

anyone write and request information about this program. As a Church Member, you might want to know what it means. You might also find that much of the required work has been completed by being a Church Member in good standing. We hope that those who wish to represent the Rowan Tree Church where they are, to have gatherings and perform Rituals for Full Moons or the eight Sabbats, will join this program and support it. Respectfully submitted, gerry Beyerl

Lay Ministry Program Coordinator

When the former POP Coordinator left, it took a while to sort out where things were. One thing that never came to light was the prior Coordinator's waiting list. When Lizard and I took on the job, it was with the understanding that Lizard would handle copying and distributing the RTNews to POP members and I would handle correspondence and the waiting list. We started a new waiting list

Lizard is doing a great job!

When a prisoner writes to us I send back a letter describing the POP program. Basically, all we offer [without Church Members to volunteer as penpals] are copies of the RTNews. I explain that there are only a limited number of PUP memberships and that there is a waiting list. I also suggest to many of them that if they are interested in correspondence, they might write to the RTNews to make their request to the Membership. Generally, I write once and, if they respond with continued interest, they go on the waiting list. If they don't respond at all, I may write again. Sometimes mail doesn't actually make it to prisoners so I take that into account. I find more often than not, when they find out that all they get is a newsletter, many are not really that interested.

When Lizard has an opening on the active list, I contact the first person on the waiting list, etc. The waiting list has less than a half dozen people on it.

Prisoner Outreach Program
Dawn Heather Simmons

The Prisoner Outreach Program of The Rowan Tree Church is one of the ministries of the Galadhrim and is directed by Dawn Heather Simmons while I am in charge of making the RTNews available to incarcerated Church Members and logging their monthly forms. This year has provided the program with a feeling of stability as the six current Members have been enrolled in the Church for more than a year. Although there is still a problem with some of the Members being denied Wiccan materials, we hope to

continue to work at educating prison officials and achieving freedom of worship for this special group of Church Members.

Prisoner Outreach Program
Lizard Frank

You will note that there are no financial figures for the Galadhrim. This is a self-supporting ministry. Lizard Frank provides the cost for the copies of the RTNews for prisoners. There is a start-up balance maintained for the Annual Retreat. There are no charges nor expenses for the Lay Ministry/Minstrel programs, for the Child of Light Healings, etc.



The Rowan Tree Church Directory of Services

Central office:

The Rowan Tree Church
P.O. Box 0691
Kirkland, WA 98083-0691

fax: (206) 803-2025

Canadian office:

The Rowan Tree Church
1300 King St. E - Box 31062
Oshawa, ONT L1H-9N9 CAN

fax: (905) 434-6133

Bardic training:

Thomas Berkham
P.O. Box 189
Alpharetta, GA 30239

Prisoner Outreach Program

D. H. S.
P.O. Box 482112
Denver, CO 80248

Rowan Tree News

Send letters, artwork and text directly to Rev. Ron at the Canadian office. Includes the 'monthly form' you need to sustain your Membership in your Church.

The Unicorn

Subscription - \$13.00 for eight issues. Offers joyful inspiration arriving in time for each Sabbat. Central office.

The Littlest Unicorn

Wanted: people interested in children, pagan parenting. Subscription - \$9.75 for eight issues. Central office.

The Mystery School

Read A Wiccan Bardo for an in-depth view of both The Tradition of Lothloriën and the Pathworking. For more information contact Rev. Paul at the central office.

The Galadhrim

Sponsoring monthly ritual work for healing (spiritual and physical). To be included check your 'monthly form.'

Always open to volunteers and interested Church Members. Contact the Canadian office. Sponsors Annual Retreats, raises funds, sponsors Prisoner Outreach.

For information on Lay Ministry and Lay Minstrel requirements contact the central office.

The Mystery School offers bound copies of most of our Sabbat Rituals plus books essential to Lothloriën. Copies of the flyer and order form can be requested from the central office. You are welcome to give copies to your friends.

A calendar of the coming year's rituals and events may be purchased for \$10.00 (includes s/h) from the central office.

Don't be seen without your beautiful Rowan Tree t-shirt. Very handsome! \$15.00 in green or blue. Wear yours proudly! "The Rowan Tree" and our logo provide for discretion and pride. From the central office.

"Merry Meet" notepaper is high-quality paper with a beautiful design. \$10.00/package of 50 sheets makes a wonderful gift.

Fund-raising projects help protect your Church's survival...