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Growing Toward the Future: The Rowan Tree Church: Our 16th Annual Report, Hallows 1997-Hallows 1998.

Rowan Tree Church

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Growing Toward the Future: Our Roots Run Deep

The Rowan Tree Church

Our 16th Annual Report

Hallows 1997 - Hallows 1998

As we enter a new year this Hallows, 1998 ce, the great social event of the arrival of 2000 ce nears. I consider it a social event for the numbering of our years is, at best, arbitrary, and one which is fairly recent in human social evolution. There are other calendars and yet we cannot deny the fun of a new millenium. Next year's Annual Report, for example, will begin a year which includes arriving at 2000 ce and our celebration of this event and of your Church's 20th year by gathering as many of us together as we can for our Annual Retreat in Yellowstone National Park.

It is indicative of the inner strength of our Church and of The Tradition of Lothloriën that we have had significant changes even as things seemed to remain the same. This past year was one in which the Board continued to function smoothly despite major challenges.

During the past year we were faced with two major hurdles. Due to health issues, our Vice President, Rev. Ron Weroski, found it necessary to resign. Jim Saigle was willing to step into that role, for which we are appreciative. Although we miss his voice in the Board, Rev. Ron continues to provide us with a marvelous monthly membership newsletter, without which our Church would have difficulty maintaining a cohesive type of Magick.

Shortly after that time the editor of The Littlest Unicorn, upon realizing that, due to family issues, he would not renew his year's commitment to continue as editor. Jim Saigle had stepped into that role when the previous editor finished her term. The past few years we have had a series of editors each taking the helm when the prospect of The Littlest Unicorn coming to an end had surfaced. The Board extends to Jim, to Cris and to Randy, their appreciation. It was about this same time that a Hermit's Grove Community Member, Teri Johnson, had been asking about becoming involved in Church publishing. Teri has considerable experience with computer publishing and is a professional graphic artist, teaching at Seattle Central Community College.

As is often the case, there have been some changes among the nonvoting Directorships of the Board. All editors are nonvoting Directors and we also seek Church Members in this role who have an interest in the management of our Church. This is an excellent way for someone to gain experience and be able to become a voting Director and hold office.

One of the major accomplishments this past year was the combining of the Church 'flyer' (the folded order form with brief descriptions of Church publications), the Mystery School brochure and the Church brochure all into one document. Not only have we combined seven pages into four, but we have added considerable text and graphics.

The response to the new "catalog of Church publications and services" has been exceptionally positive. Although this took some doing, it not being easy to 'discuss' such issues via letter, fax and e-mail, the results were quite wonderful.

Our Canadian Director's, Jim Saigle, attempts to bring our Canadian registration up to date with the current Ontario agent and address have been difficult. Those living in the U.S. believe their government to have the slowest bureaucracy, but we've learned that we're far from what things could be.

Another of the Board's 'projects' was to develop contingency plans so that various publications and Church management could be continued in the event that the Eldermentor, Founder, President of the Board, Editor of The Unicorn, bookkeeper and Head Librarian were unable to continue his duties. Toward this end our records storage (the Church rents a storage locker near The Hermit's Grove) has been reorganized, a fire-proof file purchased (and filled) and Cat McCabe has been made aware of the location of keys to both storage facilities. We've made no progress in anyone learning the bookkeeping; we have a new assistant librarian who shows great promise; and The Unicorn continues as a one-person operation which is the easiest (plus which, we needed Teri's skills and enthusiasm for The Littlest Unicorn. As part of this work, the Board formally voted to make The Hermit's Grove a legal subsidiary organization of The Rowan Tree Church. It remains distinct and is incorporated as a separate entity but in the event that it files for 501(c)(3) status as a tax-exempt organization, this is an important step.

A year ago the Church had just acquired the acre of land which holds the Memorial Grove (a woodland garden), the Dancing Circle and much of the gardens of The Hermit's Grove. Land use guidelines were established, discussed among the Members and are now available.

The Board has also been discussing (for a very long time) a discount coupon which would be given to all Members but then, primarily, placed in the Welcome Packet for new Members. Our volunteer in the 'design department,' however, has been slowed down by matters of a more pressing nature.

And this is the way things go with the Board. Our primary difficulty is what often seems like a lack of Member involvement. We'd like to remind each of you that you are more than welcome to learn to work with the Board. We have some very interesting projects and would be thrilled to have someone take on some of the work.

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl, Founder
President, Board of Directors

Financial Statements 1997-1998

How did we do this past year? Although we never maintain robust financial health, we made significant improvement over last year. Here is a look at the basic budgets within the Church:

budget	beginning	ending	difference
Annual Retreat	87.60	177.60	90.00
Mystery School	-12.35	303.48	315.83
RT Operations	73.28	323.62	250.34
The Unicorn	211.02	178.47	-32.55
The Littlest Unicorn	177.36	233.50	56.14
Periodical Library	42.73	82.06	39.33
Subscription Library	-99.67	94.48	194.15
t-shirt fund	25.00	65.00	40.00

What about your donations?

We depend heartily upon Member donations. A reasonable goal for any Church, even one which exists by paper for so many of you, would be 50%. Total Member donations by the month for this past year were:

November, 1997	\$81.84
December, 1997	304.00
January, 1998	252.00
February, 1998	324.58
March, 1998	479.00
April, 1998	306.10
May, 1998	316.48
June, 1998	206.00
July, 1998	279.00
August, 1998	414.00
September, 1998	304.21
October, 1998	<u>200.04</u>
	\$3,467.25

Where does our money come from?

Member Donations	\$3,467.25
Mystery School tuition	2,944.00
Hermit's Grove donations (property tax)	1,570.22
sales of books and newsletter subscriptions	2,415.79
donations from non-Members	198.28
t-shirt sales	60.00
2000 ce Annual Retreat deposits	70.00
sales tax (for State of Washington)	48.10
misc. donations and other	<u>139.51</u>
	\$10,853.15

And where does it go?

Combining all budgets (e.g. the Church, Mystery School, libraries, publications, etc.):

advertising expenses	\$57.00
bank fees	20.75
postage	1,444.64
printing	996.26
book purchases (library and for sale)	1,181.52
repair of office equipment & mtce	226.12
royalties, Eldermentor fees	1,024.50
property tax	1,330.22
office supplies	738.73
portable toilet rental	443.88
web site fees	90.12

Minnesota Agent expenses	240.00
property tax transferred to savings	240.00
retreat expenses and deposits in savings	140.00
storage locker rent	520.00
sales tax paid State of Washington	38.40
Land Fund money transferred to savings	266.68
telephone expense	896.21
miscellaneous other	<u>137.80</u>
	\$10,032.83

Vice President, Board of Directors

A vacancy occurred for the position of Vice President this year and I was appointed by the Board of Directors to fill it. My main activities as Vice President this year have been participating in the Board of Directors' meetings and discussions.

Now that I have completed my editorship of *The Littlest Unicorn*, and *TLU* is in Teri's capable hands, I plan to research the status of our legal incorporation in the province of Ontario, Canada.

I want to thank Rev. Paul and Gerry at the Grove and the other members of the Board for their work this year, our service organization the Galadhrim, individual Church Members and friends for the contributions and participation, and the Universe for helping to create our dynamic Rowan Tree Church Community.

Blessed Be! Jim Saigle, Vice President

Secretary, Board of Directors

As usual, I send you all warm greetings. And, actually, considering the weather here the past few weeks, the greetings are warmer than usual!

As Secretary of the Board, I have had the pleasure of corresponding with almost every one of you during the past year. I enjoy receiving news of you and sharing news of what is going on at the Grove. It has been suggested that it is not necessary to respond to each form and/or donation, but I feel that this is part of bringing our Membership, so widely spread across the face of the Earth, a little closer to knowing each other and to being a "congregation in absentia." I have been having fun letting each of you know the "number" of your monthly form as you have sent it in; hopefully, you are enjoying finding out whether you are number 5 or number 25 to have sent in your monthly form.

I note with joy that the Membership has remained fairly stable this year. While a few have been added, and some have parted, the great majority of Members have found something they are looking for in the ministry of the Rowan Tree.

I enjoyed attending the Annual Meeting of the Board at the Grove and felt complimented that some of the Board Members unable to attend designated me as their proxy. I was honored to be trusted with the responsibility to represent these good people in making decisions for and about the Church.

As you may or may not remember, my duties include

reporting to the Board of Directors each month, giving the number of Members on the roster, the number of new Members and the number of Members dropped from the Church roll during the preceding month.

i have been pleased this year to have less to be sending out concerning two- or three-month reminders for monthly forms. In a majority of the cases, the two-month reminder has been sufficient and a three month reminder has seldom been used this year. i proffer my sincere thanks to the Membership for this.

The Membership list is kept current by me, a copy of it being sent to the Tape Librarian, so that she knows who is eligible to request tapes, and to the *RTNews* Editor for his monthly "Where are we?" column.

i send articles to the *RTNews* reminding Members of the elections and the schedule of events preceding the voting. i also prepare and distribute the ballots to the Members, working with the Scribe to have as many Members participate in the elections as possible.

If any questions come to you regarding my duties or your Membership, please let me know. i hope to meet many of you at the Yellowstone Retreat in the year 2000; this should be an exciting event for our Church.

Many Blessings to each of you, gerry Beyerl

Treasurer, Board of Directors

This year has seen some changes in the position of Treasurer. Because of other constraints, the monthly reporting on the Church's finances in *The Rowan Tree News* is now being done by two other Board members. I have continued to perform the quarterly audits and to assist in monitoring the finances of The Rowan Tree Church. The Church continues to struggle financially, with fewer donations than we have seen in previous years. There were also some expenditures, approved by the Board, which put a drain on our finances. However, the purchase of a fire-proof safe in which to store vital documents was seen as necessary and prudent. The Church is operating without a deficit, but barely.

In the coming year I will again serve as Treasurer. I hope to see the financial position of the Church improve to a point where we have greater reserves in the event of unforeseen expenses. Input from Members about how to raise money is always welcome.

I have enjoyed serving The Rowan Tree in my role of Treasurer and Board member. I will continue to do so as long as I am able.

Blessed Be, Donna Lewin

Financial Reporting

We have submitted approximately five reports as of the Autumn Equinox. We have requested input from the *RTNews* readers regarding what type of financial reports they would like to see. To date there have been no requests.

The reports have covered periodicals, the porta-john,

general budgets and encouraging Members to give generously to the Church.

It is challenging to submit financial reports monthly when there is no input from the 'masses' regarding what they would like to see. However, we will keep plugging away to provide interesting information to the readers pertaining to Church finances.

Cat McCabe & Jamie Amsbaugh

Scribe, Board of Directors

I have been Scribe for the Board of Directors for several years - long enough that I don't remember how many years. This past year has been punctuated by agenda responses and the monthly column - *notes from the Board - The Rowan Tree News*. Although not an "official" duty of the Scribe, I also help the Treasurer with the quarterly audits.

The position of Scribe provides me with a wonderful opportunity to see first hand what is going on with the Church both administratively as well as financially. We have a truly great group of people on the Board - one which works well together. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow Directors for being a part of our Church's growth. I am looking forward to working with all of you again in the coming year.

Tricia Youngquist, Scribe

The Rowan Tree News

This coming Hallows will mark my third season as editor of the *RTNews*. The publication is slowly meeting my original goals of becoming an open forum for The Rowan Tree Church but especially The Tradition of Lothloriën. The last six months have seen a decrease in the amount of picture files added to the publication. This is due to my CD Rom needing replacement. When this has been accomplished we will be running again at full capacity. The *RTNews* has taken on a style of its own over the last two years and will hopefully become more valuable to Church Members as they see that this is their public forum within the Church. Topics from Orchids to Depression have graced its pages - a testament to the diversity within our Church. I hope that more Church Members will begin to utilize the *RTNews* as the valuable voice it is within The Rowan Tree Church.

Rev. Ron Weroski

It cost your Church \$273.80 in postage and \$198.71 in printing for *The Rowan Tree News*. This does not include additional costs of mailing articles, fax and phone expenses, etc.

The Littlest Unicorn

The Littlest Unicorn is a newsletter for the young members of Pagan families. We have had a high rate of subscription renewal this year. There has been a steady stream of letters to the editor, some stories submitted, and

requests for more artwork. We seem to have agreed that the larger print is helpful to young readers and that, as far as possible, we prefer our own original work to that which has already appeared elsewhere. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to serve in this capacity, and as I near the one year mark as editor of *ILU*, a new group of editorial staff is organising themselves to make *The Littlest Unicorn* even more varied and interesting.

Blessed Be, Jim Saigle, outgoing editor

I've sent topic lists and requests for feedback to Noël Knower and Jamie Amsbaugh. The Hallows issue is about halfway put together. There will be a background on the holiday, a column on exploring a god/dess from Noël, a horoscope column has been written, Rev. Paul provided a column on herbs, I'm hoping for one on Tarot and one on personal spiritual journey ... small moments we claim for ourselves. And perhaps other tidbits: news items, book reviews, etc. The look is changing somewhat. I want to break up the text a bit more to accommodate small attention spans. My goal for the year is to provide a window where young people can see flashes of a magickal life they might not see elsewhere and hence stir their curiosity enough to investigate or at least plant a seed to be later harvested. The second part of my goal is to involve more of the membership to be mentors and role models to these youngsters through their participation and contribution to *The Littlest Unicorn*.

Teri Johnson, new editor

Accounting for *The Littlest Unicorn* is misleading in that it does not reflect the donations by both editors who have provided printing and postage out-of-pocket. Only a small portion of the receipts have been submitted.

opening balance	\$177.36
Member donations & subscriptions	69.25
non-Member subscriptions & donations	86.50
sample package share & samples	18.00
office supplies	\$64.70
postage	16.70
telephone	24.46
misc.	11.75
balance	\$233.50

The Unicorn

With this year's Annual Report *The Unicorn* will soon begin its 23rd year of production. It is difficult for me to imagine, if you want the truth. Our subscription levels have taken a slight dip but remain fairly constant as the core of our readers are very faithful. Attempts to increase readership among Church Members has not been very successful.

This past year we had a contest which went well. We were able to distribute a tidy sum in prize money for poetry, fiction and artwork. With the Autumn issue we are welcoming a new staff artist, from Ontario.

The Unicorn continues to be a role model for a Wiccan newsletter. It was *The Unicorn* which was a primary moving force in the founding of The Rowan Tree Church and later of The Mystery School. Andrius was originally a source of light-hearted humor but exists now as an astral entity who will surely be around for many human lifetimes. Each issue of *The Unicorn* continues the series "The Hatchling," an ongoing series which chronicles the adventures of Holly and Arnica and their unicorn, Dark Star also reflects upon contemporary politics and ecological concerns. "The Hatchling's" first 26 installments (over three years) are now published as a spiral-bound book so readers can enjoy the entire series. Written into Andrius' letter and "The Hatchling" is much of our ongoing Church history. For decades Andrius' has included 'Unicorns of All Persuasions' which conveys significant elements of Lothlorien's myths and Sabbat customs. In a subtle manner *The Unicorn's* is a wealth of lore about our Church.

The Unicorn is very important to our Church not only from a historical perspective but for its being the most prominent extension of our ministry outside the Church without any interruption and in a dependable and consistent manner. I am here to continue my duties for the next few years but it will soon be time for one or two Church Members to become involved so that there may be, at some future date, a smooth transition.

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl, editor

opening balance	\$211.02
ad revenue	30.00
Member subscription	139.00
non-Member subscription	266.50
donations & fund-raising	187.01
sample package and samples	31.55
printing	\$252.00
postage	182.85
telephone	50.96
advertising and prize money	72.00
office supplies	87.80
misc.	38.00
balance	\$178.47

The Rowan Tree Web Page - www.oix.com/~trtc

This is also the third season the Web Page has been up and running. It has taken time, but people are now beginning to access the Church information on a more regular basis. We are currently listed with Altavista, Yahoo, and Avatarsearch as far as search engines go. My internet service provider has done a wonderful job of consistently upgrading his system and the pages are online 24 hours a day without interruption.

With theme music and beautifully simple graphics, the Web Pages describe different aspects of our Church. Sections include a main welcome page with burning torches and pentagrams to pages that deal with The Mystery School, ritual dates and times, and The Hermit's Grove.

As time goes on, this method of communication may

indeed be very important to our Church and the various means of communication we utilize.

Rev. Ron Weroski, Web Page editor

The Galadhrim

From the Head-horn of the Galadhrim Society of Unicorns:

This has been a year of growth for the Galadhrim. Twelve Unicorns are now part of the Galadhrim, providing a variety of services to the Church and its Members. These services include, but are not limited to:

Prisoner Outreach Program, Prisoner book project, Book repair services, Spiral binding of Church published rituals, Feast preparation for rituals, Child of Light Healing Ritual notifications and reminders, Church fundraising projects, Lay Ministry, Tape Librarian, Subscription Library assistance, writing articles for the Rowan Tree News and volunteer work on the Church's property at the Hermit's Grove.

We DO keep busy! We are here to serve the Church and its Members, so if you notice something that was not mentioned that you think would be a good project or one or more of us, please let us know. We have appreciated the requests for the Child of Light Healing Rituals. Any feedback concerning the results of our remembrances would also be appreciated. We hope to hear from you.

Blessed Be, *felaróf*

Lay-Ministry Program

During the past year, there have been several inquiries into this program, but we have not added any new Lay-Ministers in the past year. I hope those of you that received the guidelines and questions will continue to think on this matter.

There are currently four Lay-Ministers in the Rowan Tree: Tricia Youngquist (IL), Jim Saigle (Ontario), Frank Cordeiro (CA) and Gerry Beyerl (WA). Earlier this year they wrote a series of articles for the Rowan Tree News concerning the basic tenets of Wiccan belief. We hope to continue this with more writing to help people be aware of the purpose and point of that Church to which they belong.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a Lay-minister, please let me know at the Kirkland office. It takes some study, communication, work, time, and questioning. All current Lay-Ministers and others in the Church would be encouraging and as helpful as possible.

Blessings, *felaróf*, Lay-Ministry Coordinator

Prisoner Outreach Program

Having started the year with the goal of making monthly contact with each of the POP members and 'wait' list people, I fell down on things some months back. Although I have had occasional contact with various of them, it's been about six months since I've been in touch

with each and every one of these men.

At present I am aware of two openings on the POP member list. I am in the process of trying to fill those openings from the wait list. At the same time I am trying to refill the wait list from the waiting list to be on the wait list! Since some guys on the wait list have not been in touch with me for several months, there may also be some openings on the wait list.

I expect to have the member list filled in the next couple of weeks. Very likely, the wait list will also be filled about the same time. Meanwhile, I appreciate the patience of everyone who contacts me thinking that your letters never get through. They make it; I'm just behind in answering.

Dawn Heather, POP

As Co-Director of the Prisoner Outreach Program, I am responsible for sending the *RTNews* to our prison members, collecting Monthly Forms and maintaining the membership list. Due to work changes and increased printing expenses we tried sending out two issues of the *RTNews* from the Kirkland office but this created confusion on where to send the Monthly Forms and now we are trying a new variation by having the *RTNews* printed in Kirkland but mailed from Port Hueneme. It should end the confusion and things should be back on track soon. I occasionally add a special page to the *RTNews* with information or an article that is especially of interest to prisoners and have added an article on Christian-run prisons to the October issue. Sometimes I also get to help a prisoner in dealing with prison authorities when Wiccan materials or rights to worship are denied. Fortunately, these situations are decreasing as prisons slowly learn that we are a valid and legal religion and not a threat to prison security. I am making plans to be at the Yellowstone Retreat in 2000 and hope to meet you there.

"Lizard" Frank Cordeiro, POP

Prisoner Book Project

Since its inception in January, the project has been successful in collecting various pagan literature for our incarcerated Church members. We are grateful for your generous donations. Working with the penal system can be challenging. Each prison has different jurisdiction regarding censorship. The main issues are political. Books containing symbols (runes, astrology, etc.) are often rejected or edited. These rules are inconsistent depending upon who's in the mail room. As you can imagine, it can be difficult to determine which books are acceptable. Keeping in mind the cost of postage and limited funds, the project requires careful planning and sorting.

My goal is to establish a definitive protocol for each prison. With an organized list of what is receivable in each system, the process would be greatly simplified. This work will be primarily done through feedback from the

prisoners, themselves, and prison officials. If all goes well, the system will be in place by Yule, 1998 and books will be in the hands of prisoners prior to Candlemas.

If you would like to contribute books or money toward shipping to the project, please send your donations to the Kirkland office.

Thank you for your generosity.

Blessed Be, Isaiah Dearborne, Coordinator

The Mystery School

Already included in the financial reports on page 2, here are the figures for The Mystery School's budget:

opening balance	-\$12.35
tuition	1,290.80
sales of M.S. published books	<u>318.93</u>
postage	\$268.80
printing	174.05
office supplies & expenses	348.67
telephone	326.74
records storage	80.00
portable toilet rental	<u>95.64</u>
balance	\$303.48

Eldermentor and Founder

One of the unwritten 'laws' of the Mysteries manifested itself this past year. Even though a couple of long-term students found it necessary to take leave in order to pursue their changed futures, others took their places. When we announced an application period we had a number of requests. Of the new students, four have made it past the beginning stages, showing themselves worthy for the pursuit of serious study.

There have been no significant changes this past year, no noteworthy Initiations, no problematic hurdles. The year before we had several and now we are collectively working to see the newer students become Dedicated as Novices, working with two Novices who can see Initiation as a goal and with the Initiates for whom Ordination is a realistic goal. Although we were very disappointed when Thomas Berkham resigned as Bardmaster, we understood his need to place his attention on the students who are not part of Lothloriën which he had been gathering about him. Despite a minor interruption as we made adjustments, the Bardic training remains available.

This past Equinox saw some publishing goals. A truly beautiful, new edition of The Holy Books of the Devas came into print, published by The Hermit's Grove. Greatly expanded and evolved, it's taken Rev. Paul over twenty years to reach this point in this very important text of The Tradition of Lothloriën. The Mystery School put a new edition of A Wiccan Reader into print. Having limited appeal, it is now available as a spiral-bound book. And, in a supportive role, the publication of A Compendium of Herbal Magick by Rev. Paul certainly furthers The Mystery School.

We 'meet' at each New Moon when the Oral Tradition is presented as well as discussions in a wide range of topics complementary to the formal Pathworking. This past year Rev. Paul presented material from his Tibetan studies, discussing common themes regarding cosmologies and astral work regarding one's traditional rituals and dying. Most of our Members participate by obtaining copies of the recordings, made available within The Mystery School. At other times we work primarily as solitaries, focusing upon the varying degrees of our Pathworking. Across the Wheel of the Year, at the Scorpio Full Moon we work collectively and simultaneously. This past year was the seventeenth annual working of the Tarot Ritual. Lothloriën is growing into her maturity, drawing upon a rich and profound heritage of many years' working.

If I were to characterize this year it has been one in which many students found themselves working on major steps which the Universe brought before them. Perhaps larger challenges than they had anticipated, these steps which lay before them on the Path toward wisdom encompassed many aspects of private lives. And yet these students are the dreams of Lothloriën's future, the promise of the continuation of our Tradition and of our Church and they are growing in strength and demonstrating that Lothloriën did not choose them idly.

The clergy who will keep Lothloriën alive for the future generations of our Church hold the promise of attaining greater wisdom and insight than did the founder. Those Members in the Church who have met the requirements (listed in the Church catalog) may request an application. Our admissions period for this coming year will last from Hallows until Yule.

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl

The Annual Retreat

At the year end we had \$177.60 set aside for the Annual Retreat in 2000 ce, most of which are Member deposits and some of which is to cover the mailing and other expenses.

The Annual Retreat is now managed primarily by The Mystery School with assistance by the Church's Board of Directors. For the first ten or so years of our Church the Retreat was held in a beautiful State Park in southeastern Minnesota, near the Mississippi River. After Rev. Paul moved from Minnesota as the Universe shuttled him in his journey to The Hermit's Grove, it was a short time and there was no longer a Community able to handle the management of the Annual Retreat. We now sponsor our 'events' so that Members might conduct their own Retreat even while at home although we encourage Members to assemble when it is convenient. This year we had a modest but successful gathering at The Hermit's Grove in addition to people conducting their solitary Retreats at home. In 1999 ce there will also be a gathering at The Hermit's Grove and we are hopeful that other geographical regions might coordinate themselves to come together for a Retreat.

But the goal before us all is the Retreat in the year 2000 ce when we will be gathering at Yellowstone National Park. Already we have 15 cabins reserved, more than enough to accommodate our current registrants. We have the option of reserving more and, if we have too many, the Park will happily 'take some back' with as little as a month's notice. The ten dollar deposits to hold spaces are being held in a separate fund so the money will be available when we need to make our deposit later next summer. We'd like to thank Seeker for her great articles on Yellowstone. We believe this park, where Mother Earth is alive in so many tangible and stunning ways, will provide us with a historical Retreat. Why not join us? I'd love to see you there.

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl

The Subscription Library

It should be pointed out that both The Mystery School and the Subscription Library invested in the purchase of all remaining copies in print of A Wiccan Bardo which left both budgets temporarily at a deficit. Sales of the book, primarily to Members, have brought this back into balance.

opening balance	- \$99.67
A Wiccan Bardo	204.52
Master Book of Herbalism	49.35
Holy Books of the Devas (new ed.)	120.85
books sold by The Hermit's Grove	709.05
25% of Mystery School tuition	717.25
Painless Astrology	16.95
Member donations	48.82
library catalog sales	<u>18.00</u>
book purchases	\$1,181.52
telephone	77.23
storage rent	18.00
postage and shipping	91.86
office supplies	132.47
equipment maintenance & repair	95.56
misc. expenses	<u>94.00</u>
balance	\$94.48

The Subscription Library has seen modest growth in usage. Approximately 200 new books were added, the majority donated by *The Unicorn* and *The Hermit's Lantern* which are very active book reviewers for Llewellyn and other publishers. In addition, The Hermit's Grove purchased a number of outstanding reference books for herbal studies and books were purchased with funds allocated from The Mystery School (25% of all tuition dollars go to the library). We would like to thank those Members who made donations of used books this year. Your gifts help our library and are a great blessing.

A catalog listing all book titles has been available to Members although no Members outside The Mystery School have partaken of the privilege of using the Subscription Library. Many have said they prefer owning their own books but we are now at a point where our library contains many books which are out of print and otherwise unavailable. We recognize that the library's strength is not

necessarily for the present generation of Church Members but for the coming generations as they do research. In addition to hundreds of titles in Wicca and neopaganism, we have continued to expand books kept under 'Western Magickal Traditions' and 'World Religions and Mythology.'

For a time a monthly 'library Sunday' was offered at The Hermit's Grove. This increased circulation but also led to our needing to replace several volumes which we've not had returned.

We now have an assistant librarian, Alder Burgess, who has taken on the formidable task (which will take vast hours of work) of creating a card catalog. We all join in thanking her for her labor. A card catalog will enable us to look up books by title or by author. Currently we can search for a book only if we know under what category it is listed. With over 3,000 books to manage, the card catalog will be a valuable asset. Many have expressed a wish that our catalog would include information about each book in addition to the title and author, but the work necessary to accomplish that is far beyond our ability.

Our Church has had a library for twenty years and it is an excellent library. Those who visit The Hermit's Grove in person find great joy in looking through the shelves. It is among our more valuable resources, not only for the students who are growing into your future clergy, but for each of you and for your future.

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl, Head Librarian

Tape Library

As I write this report I am reminded of how seldom I receive requests for tapes. There are some, but not many. I feel this is unfortunate as there is much there which is valuable, relative to our specific Pathworking and Wicca in general, as well as just some enjoyable music to listen to.

I do add tapes to the library throughout the year so there is growth in the library as well. It is often difficult to decide what should be kept and what shouldn't. I plan to get something in to the *RTNews* again which could be published several times throughout the year and would stimulate more interest in the Tape Library as the resource it is.

Tricia Youngquist, Tape Librarian

Periodical Library Archives

The Periodical Library is not available for requests for material from the Church Membership. It is still in storage although its particular space will be changing due to large amounts of 'stuff' leaving the household. As these things progress the storage boxes will be put in new paces. Due to the irreplaceable nature of this material I have decided to leave the periodicals in the boxes to reduce the chance of damage and possible loss.

Tricia Youngquist, Periodical Librarian

Lothloriën's
Calendar & Wheel of the Year



for
The Rowan Tree Church

November

1 November 1998 ce
The beginning of our religious year

3 November 1998 ce
Full Lovage Moon
11° Taurus 35'
actual: 11:18 p.m. CST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

19 November 1998 ce [observed]
New Basil Moon
26° Scorpio 38'
actual: 11:27 p.m. EST, 18 xii 98*
The Ritual of Lothloriën

December

2 December 1998 ce [observed]
Full Elfwort Moon
11° Gemini 15'
actual: 7:19 a.m. PST, 3 xii 98**
The Ritual of Lothloriën

18 December 1998 ce
New Sage Moon
26° Sagittarius 48'
actual: 4:42 p.m. CST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

20 December 1998 ce
Yule Eve
Sun enters Capricorn: 5:57 p.m. PST, 21 xii 98
Our Sabbat Ritual: "How the Little Unicorn Saw
the Birth of the Sun Child"
or "A Yule Journey" with
The Ritual of Lothloriën

January

1 January 1999 ce
Full Hyssop Moon
11° Cancer 15'
actual: 6:49 p.m. PST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

17 January 1999 ce
New Comfrey Moon
27° Capricorn 05'
actual: 8:46 a.m. MST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

30 January 1999 ce [observed]
Full Angelica Moon
11° Leo 20'
actual: 10:06 a.m. CST 31 xii 98
The Ritual of Lothloriën

February

1 February 1999 ce
Candlemas Eve
"A Candlemas Journey"
with The Ritual of Lothloriën

16 February 1999 ce
New Star Anise Moon
27° Aquarius 08'
actual: 1:39 a.m. EST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

March

1 March 1999 ce
Full Lavender Moon
11° Virgo 15'
actual: 10:58 p.m. PST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

17 March 1999 ce
New Willow Moon
26° Pisces 44'
actual: 12:48 p.m. CST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

Note: Copies of our rituals can be purchased through the Church.

19 March 1999 ce
Eostara Eve
Sun enters Aries 5:46 pm PST 20 iii 98
"An Eostara Journey"
with The Ritual of Lothloriën

30 March 1999 ce [observed]
Full Verbena Moon
10° Libra 46'
actual: 3:49 p.m. MST 31 iii 98
The Ritual of Lothloriën

April

16 April 1999 ce [observed]
New Blessed Thistle Moon
25° Aries 45'
actual: 12:22 a.m. EDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

29 April 1999 ce [observed]
Full Basil Moon
The Ritual of Lothloriën

30 April 1999 ce
Full Basil Moon
9° Scorpio 49'
actual: 7:55 a.m. PDT
The Tarot Ritual
[solitary work in Lothloriën]

30 April 1999 ce
Beltane Eve
"A Beltane Journey"

May

15 May 1999 ce
New Lovage Moon
24° Taurus 14'
actual: 8:05 a.m. EDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

29 May 1999 ce
Full Sage Moon
8° Sagittarius 26'
actual: 11:40 p.m. PDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

June

13 June 1999 ce
New Elfwort Moon
22° Gemini 20'
actual: 1:03 p.m. MDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

20 June 1999 ce
Midsummer's Eve
Sun enters Cancer: 2:49 p.m. CDT 21 vi 99
"The Deva Ritual of Lothloriën"
or "A Midsummer Journey"
with The Ritual of Lothloriën

27 June 1999 ce [observed]
Full Comfrey Moon
6° Capricorn 45'
actual: 2:37 p.m. 28 xi 99
The Ritual of Lothloriën

July

12 July 1999 ce
New Hyssop Moon
20° Cancer 17'
actual: 10:24 p.m. EDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

13 July 1999 ce [observed]
New Hyssop Moon
observed where necessary

27 July 1999 ce [observed]
Full Star Anise Moon
4° Aquarius 58'
actual: 5:25 a.m. MDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën
(Reading of the Names)

29 July 1999 ce
Opening of our Annual Retreat

31 July 1999 ce
Lammas Eve
"The Lammas Ritual"
or "A Lammas Journey" with The Ritual of
Lothloriën

August

1 August 1999 ce
Closing of our Annual Retreat

11 August 1999 ce
New Angelica Moon
18° Leo 21'
actual: 7:08 a.m. EDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

26 August 1999 ce
Full Willow Moon
3° Pisces 17'
actual: 6:48 p.m. CDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

September

9 September 1999 ce
New Lavender Moon
16° Virgo 47'
actual: 4:02 p.m. MDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

22 September 1999 ce
Autumn Eve
"The Ritual For Fall"
or "An Autumn Journey"
with The Ritual of Lothloriën

24 September 1999 ce [observed]
Full Blessed Thistle Moon
1° Aries 56'
actual: 5:51 a.m. CDT 25 ix 99
The Ritual of Lothloriën

October

9 October 1999 ce
New Verbena Moon
15° Libra 44'
actual: 7:34 a.m. EDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

23 October 1999 ce [observed]
Full Lovage Moon (if necessary)

24 October 1999 ce
Full Lovage Moon
1° Taurus 00'
actual: 2:02 p.m. PDT

31 October 1999 ce
Hallowmas Eve
"The Hallows Ritual of Lothloriën"
or "A Hallows Journey"
with The Ritual of Lothloriën

November

8 November 1999 ce [observed]
New Basil Moon
15° Scorpio 17'
actual: 10:53 p.m. EST 7 xi 99
The Ritual of Lothloriën

22 November 1999 ce
Full Efwort Moon
0° Gemini 32'
actual: 11:04 p.m. PST
The Ritual of Lothloriën

The Tradition of Lothloriën has a number of Sabbat Rituals published for your use. In addition, a collection of eight Sabbat Journeys suitable for working within a Circle cast with The Ritual of Lothloriën, is expected to be in print and available by the end of January, 1999 ce.

* When we cannot work our New Moons at the same time as the actual astrological event, we generally work the first evening *following* the precise time so as to be working during waxing energy.

** When we cannot work our Full Moons at the same time as the actual astrological event, we generally work the evening before the Full Moon so as to be working at the height of the Moon's waxing energy.

Ritual times may vary. Local Communities provide their own schedules. If you cannot work at the Full Moon or on the observed evening, we recommend when possible working with the waxing energies.

New Moons are worked within The Mystery School. Your solitary work is encouraged.