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Rowan Tree Church

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THE ROWAN TREE CHURCH



Annual Report

Autumn Equinox 1992 ce

Autumn Address

This evening we celebrate the Harvest Celebration within our Wheel of the Year. This is that Sabbat at which our Church and Tradition weigh the fruit of our labors.

You, our Members, are truly the fruit of the Rowan Tree. Several years ago, I had this 'vision' (that's 'vision' with a small "v") in answer to a years-old question:

"How will we grow? Will we have lots of Rowan Tree Churches?"

The answer came through studying the evolution of religions and also determining what would be appropriate for the Age of Aquarius. The answer was to continue as one Church but to foster the growth of Communities wherever there are enough Members to gather for Rituals, for Sunday Circles, to share knowledge and support each other's Wiccan beliefs.

And now, as we sit in Circle to celebrate the Harvest, this past year has seen this dream come to manifestation:

The original Community

grew in Minneapolis and is now in Southeastern Minnesota. Once as large as twenty-five Members, it is now far smaller but stable. It includes Rev. Don as clergy of Lothlorien. It's activities are many, including the library, the publishing of The Littlest Unicorn, the bookkeeping services and David Coleman with the tape library.

Our 'second' Community is growing in the greater Los Angeles area. Although we are not much larger than last year at this time, we represent 25% of the total Membership of the Church. With the Founder as the resident clergy, we are the most active Community. Our activities include two Sunday Circles each month, the publishing of The Unicorn, Membership maintenance for the Board, the General Manager's office, and regular Full Moon and Sabbat Rituals for the Membership. We are also highly active in the annual Harvest Moon Celebration and expect our local Community to grow modestly following this year's gathering.

Since the Wheel began this year's Circle, a new Community in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, came into being. Their work includes the publishing of the RTNews and their Membership includes Jami

Shoemaker, Vice President of the Board of Directors. This Community is to be commended for their excellent attendance at this year's Annual Retreat.

In addition two other communities are developing. We have a small number of Canadian Members and Ron Weroski is working to foster greater awareness throughout Canada of The Rowan Tree Church. Ron's goal is to see our Church expand until we have enough Members to pursue legal recognition in Canada. The mid-Atlantic Members are organizing through the work of Diane Lorden (N.J.) and Greg Stewart (N.Y.). They stay in touch through their 'leaflet' (much smaller than a newsletter) and try to meet at other gatherings. Several of them were going to meet at the New York State Renaissance Faire on September 12th. In addition, they are working to create a "round robin" Sunday Circle tape for all Church Members to enjoy.

No matter where you live, you are part of our magnificent Rowan Tree. We have sixteen Members in California, four in Northern California and a dozen in Southern California. Minnesota and Iowa each have six Members. There are four Members in New York State. Ontario, Canada, has three Members as do Florida and Michigan. States with two members include Massachusetts, Washington, Georgia, New Jersey, Indiana, and Illinois. And we have one Member in each of the following: West Virginia, Delaware, South Carolina, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska,

Vermont, Arizona, Tennessee, and Switzerland. We remain in touch through our monthly RTNews, and Sunday Circle tapes. Many of us have met at the Retreat, at numerous other Gatherings across the United States, and through correspondence, phone calls and travel, whenever possible. There are 67 Members (about seven more than last year) including nine Members through the Prisoner Outreach Program.

Perhaps one thing I see set us apart from many other Pagan groups and organizations: over and over again I see Members come together and meet for ritual and social joy for the first time... and find kinship even though we represent a tremendous variety of backgrounds, of lifestyle and personal interest. Through our Church Membership we represent the best of contemporary Paganism and yet, within this large and multifaceted Community we also reach back into ancient roots with a Mystery School whose training functions within the veils of secrecy.

Having the opportunity to travel throughout the United States upon occasion and constantly being in contact with numerous Pagan organizations, what we share with The Rowan Tree Church is stellar. Each of us should thank the other sixty-six Members for our Church is nothing without its beloved Membership. As Founder, may I thank you for being part of a sacred and joyous Harvest.

Rev. Paul V. Beyerl

President, Board of Directors
Rev. Paul V. Beyerl

We can expect some major changes in our Membership this coming year. Changes which you, as Members, voted in favor of are leading the Board of Directors to change the RTNew's availability so that it is no longer automatically sent free to all Members.

Members will continue to receive their Welcome Packet and will receive a quarterly RTNews (published by the BOD in addition to the monthly RTNews) regardless of their ability to contribute to our survival.

Perhaps the most significant change for the BOD was seeing how the complex process of amending the Book of Legislation works. We were all 'rookies' this time around. Although some might be tempted to make the process quick and easy, it was intentionally designed to be cumbersome, for the By-Lays of a religious Corporation should only be changed following extensive discussion and forethought.

Our most conspicuous accomplishment this past year included successful filing for recognition as a tax-exempt Church with the State of California. Now we prepare for our first BOD meeting as the new Directorship is welcomed.

Tonight the new Board of Directors takes office, They were voted upon by you, as Members. The 1992-1993 Board of Directors includes:

Rev. Paul Beyerl, President

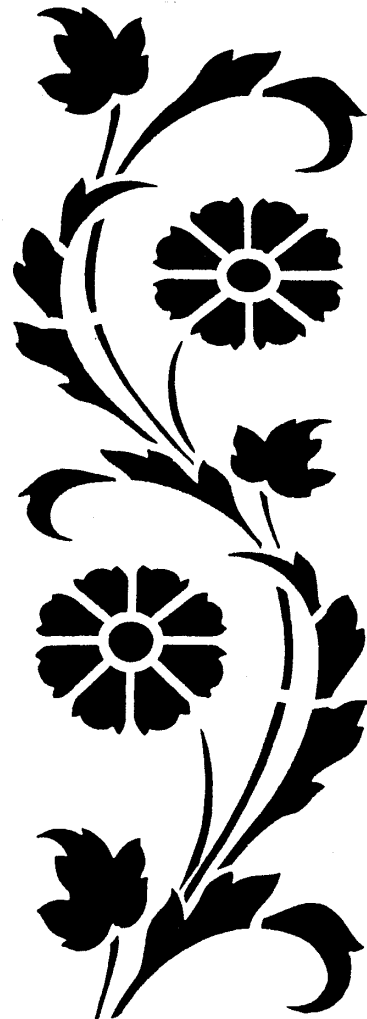
Jami Shoemaker, Vice President

TaL [John] Schuh, Director

Derek [Lonewolf] Van Spoor,
Treasurer

Deirdre Sargent, Secretary

Jim Saigle, Scribe



Vice President's Report

This year has seen many changes in the Board of Directors. Our Secretary and Scribe positions have changed hands since the installation of last year's BOD. Our list of non-voting Directors has increased, with additions from, Canada, New England, and from the Bardmaster.

We have branched out legally in California, and are now represented in Canada, with strong possibilities for even more exciting changes coming from that part of the Rowan Tree Community.

The work of the Galadhrim has been defined, and programs such as the Prisoner Outreach Program and the 12-step group are finding stability in their very capable hands.

The Littlest Unicorn has gained back its original editor, Rev. Don, and Valerie Severtson is now on board. Likewise, Tina Houk is now acting as assistant editor to Rev. Paul on the staff of The Unicorn newsletter.

Similarly, the editorship of The Rowan Tree News has changed hands this year; now it is in the hands of the Iowa Community (which is something which formed itself this last spring, and holds promise as a strong working team).

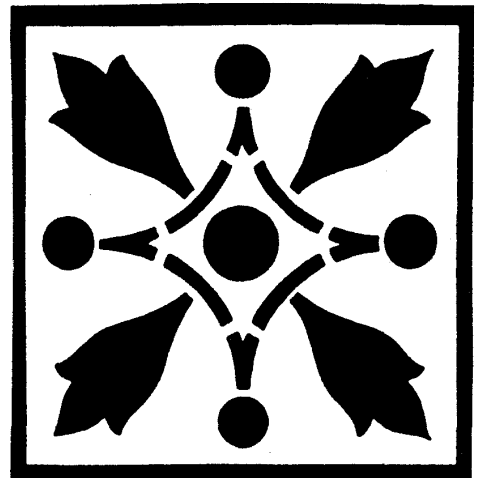
The financial struggle we face as a non-profit organization has been one of the main topics of discussion this year (as it always will be, I imagine). In order to help stabilize our budget in

general, and avoid the mishaps of last year's financial crisis, the Board has elected to change the subscription status of the Rowan Tree News, and is currently implementing a system of exchange per minimum monthly donation. We have hopes that this new system will be met with favorable response, and that our budget for General Funds will no longer suffer.

Personally, I have greatly enjoyed working as Vice President of the Board this last year, and I look forward to the next year... Because of increased work loads from other areas of Church involvement, I have passed on to Derrick Van Spoor, of the Iowa community, the duty of sending out Welcome Packets to new Members.

There is still a lot of work ahead of us, and I look forward to the year ahead as we continue to grow and change and become stronger.

Autumn Blessings to All!
Jami Shoemaker, V.P.



Treasurer's Report

The fiscal year is drawing to a close and it's filled with changes. The recession has hit the Church along with the rest of the country. Our donations have been down due to tight money times and some late issues of the Rowan Tree News which contain our monthly donation forms. The bookkeeping is becoming untangled thanks to our wonderful volunteer bookkeeper Rev. Don who has been working on this in his copious spare time.

For a time our monthly donations forms were late. This caused donations to fall behind or be forgotten for the month. Needless to say, this greatly affected our monthly operating budget. Towards the end of the fiscal year, the newsletter changed editorial hands and has been distributed on time since.

Over the past six months we have been discussing the increasing deficit within the Church and amending the Book of Legislation (our By-Laws) to make the Rowan Tree News a monthly subscription item. This was deemed necessary because of the severe strain on the Church's finances. This was voted on by the membership of the Church and the motion was passed.

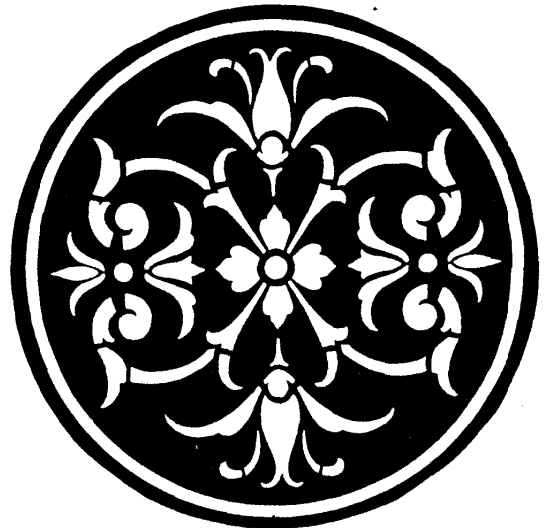
When members donate \$10.00 to the General Fund, they receive the Rowan Tree News for the upcoming month. (Example: you give \$10 in October, you receive the November issue.) If they are in financial difficulty they

can send \$5.00 to the General Fund for the same deal. Any member who donates \$15 or more to the General Fund will receive the Rowan Tree News and special thanks. [Thank you!--ed.]

We will also be publishing the Rowan Tree Quarterly Newsletter again. This will be sent FREE OF CHARGE to ALL Church members.

I am hopeful that the political climate will swing the other way in the fall [1992] and that the new fiscal year will look more promising. Our community continues to grow and it is my hope that the support of that community will grow with it.

Blessed Be,
Deirdre Sargent
BOD Treasurer



BOD Member Report, Lizard

As a voting member of the Board, I responded to all but one of the agendas. This year a lot of attention was given to solving the financial problems of the Church. With the upcoming implementation of a fee for the Rowan Tree News, we may finally see financial stability for the Church.

I also worked on developing a "conflict resolution" procedure that may be administered by the Galadhrim when they grow and are able to take on new projects. And, I became coordinator of the new Prisoner Outreach Program (POP) which grew out of the recognition of the special social and financial problems faced by our members who are in prison.

When the Board voted to have Directors serve for two years, I worked with Deirdre on changes needed in the Book of Legislation to allow the new procedures.

It was good to see the Board functioning in a stable, efficient, manner this year and to witness the smooth transition to a new BOD. I will not be a voting Director this next period but will serve as a non-voting Director due to my position as coordinator of POP.

Acting Scribe's Report

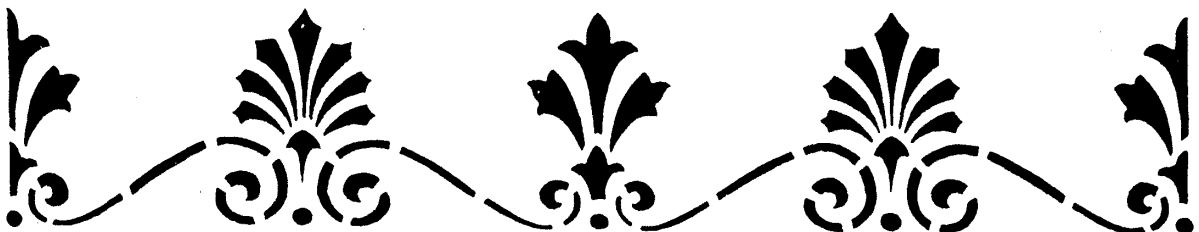
I was appointed to the BOD toward the end of this year. With the evolution of the RTNews, the BOD scribe duties developed into the editorship of the Rowan Tree Quarterly.

Recently, the scribe was responsible for writing and forwarding summaries of the BOD meeting minutes to the secretary for inclusion in the RTNews. The new direction and expansion of the RTNews into Pathworking and Networking required a general, if less frequent forum for Church business. This will be the aim of the Rowan Tree Quarterly. The scribe position matches these activities well as it avoids duplication of effort.

I am looking forward to the first year of the publication of the Quarterly. Submissions and comments are requested.

Jim Saigle

The Graphic Designs other than the "Rowan Tree Circle" are from "Victorian Stencils" by Edmund V. Gillon Jr., Dover Publications, Inc., N.Y.



1991-1992 Annual Reports
Rev. Don Schaper

As Mentor

I was initiated into the Second Degree at Lammas, 1988ce. Officially, this made me both a Minister in the Church and a Mentor in the Mystery School. Due to the press of health issues I started my life as Mentor by going immediately into retirement! With the exception of occasional bursts of activity, the situation has stayed static over the past several years. Beginning at Candle, as 1992 my life changed dramatically and I'm now going through the slow process of coming out of retirement and fulfilling my dual roles of Minister and Mentor. In March I performed my second Handfasting Ritual (the first one legally accepted by the State). My interaction with the Mystery School students and the Rowan Tree Community have increased; and the process will continue as I find my unique pathway into both living with AIDS and becoming the Mentor/Minister that I was meant to be. The next year promises to be one filled with activity as I come out of my shell and embrace our Community as a partially-functioning Second Degree Initiate.

As Editor of The Littlest Unicorn

I've been the editor of this publication for almost one year. Frankly, I took it over since that seemed to be the only option available

for keeping a publication going which I started in 1985! At present there are 35 subscribers. There have been several new subscriptions by Rowan Tree Members who have decided they wish to start writing for the publication. On the down side, there are a number of subscriptions that are about to end. During the past year the subscription renewal rate has been dismal; due in large part to the lack of material being presented in the newsletter. Things are now picking up, with several new people involved, and each issue tends to be more interesting than the last. I expect the number of subscribers to fall to around 25 by Candlemas and then bounce up to 35-50 by the end of next year.

The Littlest Unicorn has not yet been able to attract an artist, so has been almost entirely composed of text. The publication is quickly evolving into one which the parents read to their children. In the past, the newsletter was filled with games and artwork that children would enjoy seeing. Things have shifted as we try to find a niche that The Littlest Unicorn will fit into.

Valerie Severtson was the co-editor of The Littlest Unicorn this past year. Her contributions have been greatly appreciated by myself and the readership of TLU. The Lammas 1992 issue was her last one. I hope to find

another co-editor in the near future. Volunteers? ... Please contact me for information. ...

Rev. Don Schaper
As Bookkeeper

The system of handling the flow of moneys into and out of the three bank accounts is as follows: Rev. Paul Beyerl handles the Los Angeles Checking and Savings accounts (the savings account holds our Land Fund). Virtually all the money sent via monthly forms and Mystery School tuition are processed in California by Paul. He also deposits money from the form we send out in our brochure (subscriptions, sample packages of our periodicals, etc.). The Minneapolis deposits are made up mostly of money sent in for sample packages through our advertisement in Circle's periodical (and the odd subscription, etc.). Transfers of funds between accounts is done as deemed necessary. All of the information of credits and debits is distilled onto a few simple forms that are then sent to me for entering into my computer.

The job of entering the information into the Church's accounting program (DAC) takes a little over two hours each month (though making sure that the information has been correctly entered takes just about as long). I use a separate computer program to prepare the published financial reports. My record this past year for efficiency has been rather poor. There

were significant delays at the beginning of the year due to mistakes I made in setting up the computer books. There were also long delays during the middle of the year trying to correct the mistakes of the previous bookkeeper (though the bookkeeper shouldn't be held entirely to blame since nobody was interested enough to ask if he was doing well!). At present, the system is working rather well; with Paul having the necessary information about the previous month's finances by the middle of the next month. I'm also getting slightly better about remembering to send the RTNews the monthly financial report!

The bookkeeper position is a paid one; where I'm getting \$7.50 per hour for the work (plus printing costs). The policy that I've had in the past year (and one which will continue) is that if there are delays in closing the books for a month caused by my inefficiencies then I donate the labor costs. I only accept money for doing the job if it is done in a timely manner.

The information entered into my computer tends to be quite detailed. It would be relatively easy for me to give a position-holder necessary information about trends in incoming and outgoing moneys. At this time, only Rev. Paul is utilizing this information. An important goal for the next year would be for me to increase the amount of communication about the way the finances work to both the position-holders in particular and the Rowan Tree Community in general.

Rev. Don Schaper
As Librarian

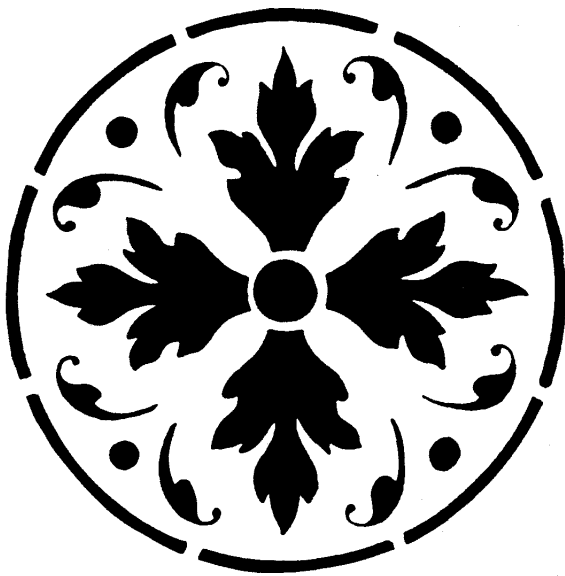
For the first half of the year it often took a reminder note or a call in order to get me to send books, but I've certainly been a lot better at it in the past couple of months (sometimes I feel as if I should kick myself for having memory problems, but then I forget!!!).

The Rowan Tree's library is an incredible resource that is severely underused. ... Even though we send a library catalog to each Member, such a list of title doesn't really indicate what books would be good to check out. At various times over the past several years I've published small book reviews; in order to give the Membership an idea an idea of the variety and the quality of the books. This doesn't seem to have increased the use of the library in any great amounts. I would certainly be willing to take suggestions about how to increase enthusiasm for the Church's library.

One of the great benefits of having a subscription library is that it gives the individual the opportunity to read a book before they decide whether or not they should but it for their personal library.

If a person doesn't quite know which books they might like to read, but have a general subject or area of study they are interested in, I could certainly recommend books from our library. Also, there are subjects which an individual might not have a

great interest in, but would like to have a book on it for a month in order to be more conversant with the subject (without having the time to study to become an expert - or - spend hard-earned money buying a book). The Subscription Library would be an excellent resource; since it has so many volumes covering so many varying subjects. There are many reasons to use the library; when it is a good thing to spend the money for return postage rather than the greater amount of money needed to buy the book. Again, I would welcome suggestions on how to increase this important resource's use.



The Libraries

There has been very small expansion of the library this year. Donations of books from The Unicorn have decreased as the recession has caused all publishers to cut back on their new titles and the review programs of many books which are coming into print.

Several times this year the library has donated a substantial amount of its budget in order to help out other areas of the Church. The library draws nearly all of its budget from a percentage of The Mystery School.

Use of the library outside The Mystery School continues to be neglected. Many people think of the library and, instead, decide to purchase a book so they can keep it on hand, yet the library contains almost three thousand books, and is an invaluable resource for those who wish to pursue a subject in detail using many books no longer in print.

The tape library recently published a new catalog and we are honored to have a new tape librarian, David Coleman, of Delano, Minnesota. New tapes are added to the library, such as the tape being created this night.

Rev. Paul Beyerl

Tape Librarian Report

Over the past year the tape library has changed hands. The library has been re-organized with a new catalog system. As of this writing 107 tapes have been cataloged. Many of these tapes are of importance historically to the Rowan Tree Church and educationally to the Pagan population in general. These should be copied and kept in more than one location. This will be a project for the coming year.

The system for sending out tapes has been reorganized as well. Careful records are kept of how many tapes and stamped envelopes each person has on file with the tape library, and each time a tape is sent a note accompanies it informing the person how many they have left. To receive a tape an individual is expected to have a tape to be copied on file with the tape library.

Many Sunday Circle tapes have been compiled by Rowan Tree Church Members, to whom the tape library extends thanks. This has represented a tremendous amount of work. Sunday Circle and New Moon tapes are no longer kept unless specifically requested to be entered into the catalog.

The tape copier is still in good condition. Though hard on tapes because of its high speed, there have been no problems with it.

David Coleman

Rowan Tree News Report

Greetings one and all! My name is Derek VanSpoor (aka Lonewolf), editor of the Rowan Tree News. I hope this letter finds all of you happy, blessed, and prepared for the New Year.

At the time of writing this letter, we at the RTNews have published four issues (June thru September). Mostly without any problems other than electronic. (Faeries you know!) The response to date from our readership has been extremely favorable. The new format was well received and so far we haven't had too much difficulty filling each issue. In fact, at the start, we had too much.

However, as time has gone by, we have caught up with most of the Church business and have put out pleas to the membership for contributions. This area does seem light.

I am constantly trying to pull our Church closer together via communications and sharing of news and events. I do not wish the newsletter to be a platform for me, the staff, or the Church's business. I had hoped for it (and still do) to be a central forum or meeting point for the Rowan Tree community. I can only judge community involvement by contributions from the readers and I certainly hope that in all actuality, the involvement is higher and deeper than the number of envelopes I find in my mailbox each month.

Which now brings me around to my goals. Upfront since the beginning and into the New Year, my goal is to help pull our community together. Through discussions with others such as Rev. Paul, Rev. Don, Willi, Lizard, and TaL. I find this is a common goal. My hopes and labors shall continue.

As of recently, I have come across quite a bit of activity from the L.A. community in the way of sharing information and assisting Rev. Paul's tasks. I wish to take the opportunity to thank these folks. As editor, I have been able to meet them (via letters) and they have all helped make the RTNews possible each month.

All in all, I am very pleased with the Church's response to the new RTNews and hope I can continue to please one and all. Thank you and Blessed Be All!

Derek (Lonewolf) VanSpoor
The Rowan Tree News, editor



The Unicorn

Total subscription to The Unicorn has found a 12% decline which we attribute primarily to the recession.

Our most important news is the new co-editor, Tina Houk, who has tickled Andrius until he's bluer than ever and his horn is sparkling bright.

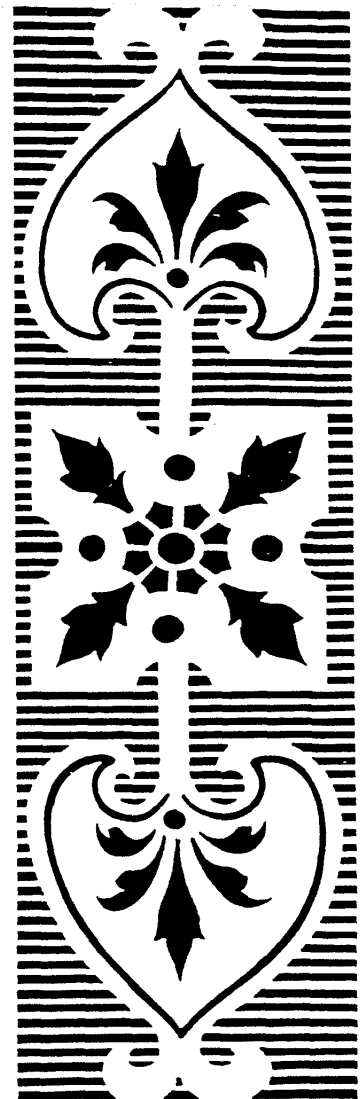
Other changes include the consolidation of the distribution. Last year the 40+ issues sent to other publications were sent to Canada and mailed by Ron Weroski and all subscriber issues were sent to New York where they were mailed by Greg Stewart. It was a tremendous help but the decreased subscriptions meant we needed to be more cautious with our expenses.

Two Los Angeles area Members helped the editors with the most recent issue of the Unicorn and Andrius extends special thanks to Shari Martin and Jami McDonald for their work in getting the Autumn issue ready for posting.

The last few issues have seen a subtle change in content. There is now an increased number of articles written by Mystery School students, published under their 'pen' names. This has led to a wonderful change in quality, and The Unicorn reflects a greater depth and is now a more accurate reflection of the Church, itself.

Currently only a minority

of Church Members subscribe to The Unicorn. We would like to see this changed during the coming year.



The Galadhrim Society of Unicorns

During the past liturgical/fiscal year, the Galadhrim have established four ministries to serve the Church community: the Healing Circles; the Twelve Step Support System; the Prisoner Outreach Program; and coordination of the RTC's Annual Retreat and Campout. In July 1991, the Galadhrim submitted a statement of purpose to the Board of Directors and Church-at-large, which outlined the Society's mission and membership requirements. Additionally, all three Galadhrim members have been active on the Board for the past year. Quite remarkable for a small group....

Some words about the ministries....

* Healing Circles were established by Ron Weroski (Canada) and the ritual times have been published in the RTNews' Ritual Schedule. The ritual for mat, which continues to be used is the "Child of Light Ritual". Members are encouraged to send their healing requests to the Canadian office for focus during ritual. The Church membership are always encouraged to join in this work.

* Twelve Step Support System was established by John "TaL" Schuh (IL), as a network involved in recovery programs. Activities have been limited to interactive support via letter writing and telephone calls.

* Prisoner Outreach Program (POP) was established by "Lizard Frank Cordeiro (CA), as a network for incarcerated RTC members to interact with their Church community/fellow Wiccans. Guidelines for prison members were assembled and shared with the Board. However, due to the Church's fiscal problems, the POP's role has been expanded to maintenance of incarcerated individual memberships. The POP will serve as a resource for prison members to gain access to Church services. Additionally, the POP will maintain a list of incarcerated members for RTNews distribution. Lizard, with assistance of Stephanie Schwab (TX) will be revising the guidelines.

* RTC's Sixth Annual Retreat and Campout (1992) was coordinated by TaL, with the direction and assistance of Rev. Don Schaper (MN). A comprehensive letter outlining the Retreat and ritual schedule was written by TaL. It was mailed to the Church membership in May, with the assistance of Aerio de Danaan (MI). Subsequent notices appeared in the June and July issues of the RTNews. Overall response was low, being attributed to the late time of the initial mailing. For the 1993 Retreat, the Galadhrim will print notices in the RTNews, beginning in January, thus giving members adequate time to plan time off, etc.

The Retreat was attended by nine members from Illinois,

Iowa, Minnesota, and Switzerland. Despite the small size, it was deemed a success by the participants. Unplanned for was the additional expense of a trailer site rental, in order to gain access to park shower facilities. This is a new park policy established this year. In past years, shower facilities were available to "primitive campsite" users for a small per person fee. The question of shower accessibility was intimated by a park representative during the coordinator's initial call to reserve a camp site. However, during the coordinator's follow-up in June, a second park representative stated that the original policy was still in effect. The additional expense will be taken under consideration when the Galadhrim and College of Mentors plan next year's retreat.

In closing....

I hope that the Galadhrim Society grows in membership during the coming liturgical/fiscal year. At this writing, we have three dedicated members and two Church members petitioning to join our ranks. But in order for the Society to fulfil its dream--that of building a strong sense of Church community spirit--we will need to actively recruit individuals to take on stewardship of our ministries. During the last year, I think each of us has been reminded that we are only human and cannot possibly take it all on. With the perseverance of its present and future

members, I believe the Girl Society will flourish, thus ensuring the future of our Church and the Lothlorien Wiccan religion.

John "TaL" Schuh
Coordinator

The Galadhrim Prisoner
Outreach Program

This is the first year of our program for working with the special needs and problems of our nine incarcerated members. We are still ironing out the details and are learning to work through the prison systems. Steffanie Schwab, who had her own program for prisoners, has brought her knowledge and experience to us. Being aware of the legal and social problems that a Pagan prisoner faces, she handles the initial requests for membership and if a prisoner is accepted into the program, she also sends out the "Welcome Packet".

I am in charge of printing and sending out the Rowan Tree News to members, maintaining communication between POP and the Galadhrim, and representing the program at the Board of Directors meetings.

Our focus for the next year when the program is running smoothly, will be to encourage prisoners to become more active in the Church and to help them to work with the system so that they can practice their religion.

Lizard

The Mystery School

Last year's Annual Report said that "The Mystery School is the strongest it has ever been." And we have grown considerably. The College of Mentors continues to be composed of the Eldermentor, a High Priest, and the Bardmaster. Last year's goals were fulfilled and we now have a Priestess and a Priest, each working toward the time when their intent to seek Ordination is made public within the Church. Their Initiations took place between Lammass and tonight's Sabbat and that Magic is still with us, shining bright and strong.

We currently have two Novice Supplicants, or 'new' students working toward dedication. And we have an excellent enrollment of eleven Novices, three of whom are working on their second level, four of whom will be soon taking their orals and moving into the second level, and four first level Novices.

In 1990 we had five Novice Supplicants, eight first-level Novices and one upper-level Novice. In 1991 we had seven Novice Supplicants, ten first-level Novices and three second level Novices. You can see that our future is strong. Although it might have appeared that The Mystery School went into hibernation from the days of old, before The Rowan Tree Church was opened to Members who were not within The Mystery School, the new directions we have taken, those of making the Pathworking even more

challenging than it was before, of publishing "A Wiccan Bardo", have brought before you the future of the Church: women and men who represent a solid commitment, who represent the best quality of Wiccan student to be found in any group.

In the near future we will be admitting our first serious student within the Bardic Path. It is not known, at this time, whether or not there will be any other applications extended in the near future. Church Members are reminded that, should you wish to study within The Mystery School, that a candidate for an opening will be selected from those who have made their intent known and are preparing themselves for such an announcement. This year we will see the least number of openings available as our Mystery School enrollment is the most stable in its history.

The most significant change within the past year has been the development of a new body of published literature called "Commentaries". Commentaries represent original, creative material produced by the Novices and Initiates studying the Path of Lothlorien. To date we have worked with both the written Tradition [our hand-written Book of Shadows] and the oral Tradition but now we have added a third medium through which wisdom is passed on to the future generations. Some of this material is found with the pages of The Unicorn

and, upon occasion, within the pages of the RTNews, although it would take an astute reader to correctly guess whether or not such an article is derived from within the Mystery School.

The recession affected The Mystery School as it did the rest of the Church. It was necessary to increase tuition by \$5.00 a month, the first increase in many years. With the increase in published material which students receive, the costs of printing and postage increased as well.

Although you do not see them, those within The Mystery School represent a deep and lasting commitment to making The Rowan Tree Church 'work', to bringing it through the next decades into the next generation. Over the next year or two, you will begin to truly see the fruits of these labors as these women and men come before you, Members of the Church, and tell you with total sincerity, with Perfect Love and Perfect Trust, that they have committed their lives to serving the Church and serving you. They will arrive in silence, coming to the Sacred Circle to share with you The Ritual of Lothlorien and, as you chant the words, they will move in silence, yoking themselves to everything Lothlorien represents.

Patience, my friends. We will have the finest Wiccan Priestesses and Priests coming before you for Ordination. It seems but a few years ago The Mystery School made a dramatic and startling change. Many of the 'old generation' of

students departed. But the new Novices were more committed to Lothlorien than the old Initiates and just as a garden must periodically undergo rebirth, The Mystery School is both the same as ever and completely changed.

The recent Initiations affirmed what the College of Mentors has known within its hearts. Our Tradition truly 'works'. We are truly blessed and we know that our role is to carry that blessing out wherever there are Members of our Beloved Church.



Report from the Treasurer

The following is a brief summary of the financial state of The Rowan Tree Church for the 1991-1992 fiscal year.

The Rowan Tree Church credits totaled \$12,310.09, and with debits totaling \$10,968.43, left a positive balance of \$1,341.66. Added to that the balance from the 1990-1991 year end of 1847.68, leaves a total balance of \$3,189.34.

End of year results for the Rowan Tree Church itself were out of the red. As well as a better year end balance for The Mystery School.

With \$788.63 from this year added to \$1,526.39 from last year, The Land Fund now has \$2,315.02 in a savings account earning interest.

For additional information, reference attached financial reports and breakdowns. Any questions regarding these reports can be directed to myself or Rev. Don Schrafer.

Derek VanSpoor
Treasurer

THE ROWAN TREE CHURCH

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR: November 1st, 1991 thru October 31st, 1992

Budget	90-91 EOY	91-92 Credits	91-92 Debits	91-92 EOY
Rowan Tree Church	-112.12	4263.85	3932.17	219.56
The Mystery School	15.81	2041.04	1880.62	176.23
SubscriptionLibrary	-57.92	1692.06	1465.72	168.42
Periodical Library	45.74	230.20	217.48	58.46
The Land Fund	1526.39	788.63	0.00	2315.02
Elder Mentor Fund	0.00	1724.70	1724.70	0.00
Blaisdell House Fund	0.00	610.00	610.00	0.00
The Unicorn	348.47	573.28	811.38	110.37
The Littlest Unicorn	81.31	243.33	187.15	137.49
Annual Retreat	0.00	143.00	139.21	3.79
Yearly Totals	1847.68	12310.09	10968.43	3189.34

The End Of Year monies are split among the three bank accounts as follows:: \$264.85 in Minneapolis checking + \$609.47 in Los Angeles checking + \$2315.02 in Los Angeles savings = \$3189.34.

A PARTIAL BREAKDOWN OF REVENUES

Operating Costs donation (on the monthly form) = \$3033.00:: Rowan Tree Church (\$2130.80) + Administration (\$152.20) + RTNews (\$597.80) + Periodical Library (\$152.20).

Special Gifts at the beginning of the fiscal year to compensate for 90-91 budget problems = \$367.00.

Sample Package orders = \$543.20:: Rowan Tree Church (\$292.71) + RTNews (\$90.83) + The Unicorn (\$79.83) + The Littlest Unicorn (\$79.83).

Rowan Tree Church budget = \$4263.85:: Rowan Tree Church (\$3095.52) + Administration (\$152.20) + RTNews (\$1016.13).

RTNews budget = \$1016.13:: Operating Costs donation (\$597.80) + Sample Packages (\$90.83) + Donations / Subscriptions (\$327.50).

Mystery School Tuition = \$3908.61:: Mystery School (\$1758.88) + Subscription Library (\$1172.58) + Elder Mentor Fund (\$977.15).

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES PER BUDGET

Budget	Postage	Printing	Phone	Office Supp	Other
Rowan Tree Church	601.59	149.65	407.51	537.37	1111.05
Administration*	184.86	26.13	159.76	90.50	217.56
The Mystery School	527.48	308.47	410.44	360.57	273.66
SubscriptionLibrary	261.80	11.85	79.44	173.63	217.26
Periodical Library	54.04	102.94	10.00	37.00	13.50
The RTNews*	95.03	279.83	22.35	2.00	46.98
The Unicorn	269.94	345.16	40.56	129.22	26.50
The Littlest Unicorn	106.20	57.69	2.44	1.00	19.82
Yearly Totals	2100.94	1281.72	1132.50	1331.29	1926.33

When you add to these figures: \$721.70 in the Subscription Library budget to buy books, \$1724.70 in Elder Mentor Fund payments, \$610.00 in Blaisdell House Fund payments, & \$139.21 in Annual Retreat expenditures; the resultant total equals \$10968.43.

* Administration and The RTNews figures are contained in The Rowan Tree Church budget in the full report.