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1993

# Rowan Tree Church, Annual Report, 1993

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1 9 9 3    A N N U A L    R E P O R T

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The General Manager's Report

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The Eldermentor's Report

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The Board President's Report

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The Board Vice-President's Report

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The Board Secretary's Report

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The Board Treasurer's Report

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The Board Scribe's Report

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Report from the Unicorn Editor

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Report from the RT News Editor

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Librarian's Report

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The Galadhrim Society Reports

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Report from the Editors of The Littlest Unicorn

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*The Rowan Tree Church*

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## Annual Report by the General Manager of the Rowan Tree Church

This is a position I have held since it was decided that the actual role of 'managing' the financial and work flow within the Church was a reality. This might be perceived as management of the 'business' aspects of the Church, a counterpart to the Eldermentor role of overseeing the spiritual aspects of the Church and Mystery School. (The Mystery School's budget is managed by the College of Mentors, not by the General Manager and the BOD.) The General Manager has the responsibility to make decisions quickly and decisively. There are numerous duties involved in this position and none of them are easy.

Financial management includes overseeing expenditures, making decisions regarding expenses which fall outside the usual budget but which are not large enough to warrant going through the process of seeking a BOD decision. This can range from ordering another ream of paper to buying software to upgrade a computer program which is dysfunctional without the changes. Reimbursement is also handled by the office of General Manager. Expenses incurred by the various Church activities (printing and mailing the RTNews, paying for the Retreat site) are usually paid for by the Members in charge. The receipts are sent to the General Manager who issues them checks for reimbursement.

Work flow management includes making sure that Welcome Packets (the 80+ pages sent to a new Church Member) are sent out within days of a Member's joining the Church, as mandated by the BOD. This management also includes Sample Packets and the flow and handling of mail which affects the Church as a whole. One of the more unpleasant tasks which falls upon the General Manager happens when a Member has accepted responsibility but is unable to do the task. The General Manager must make decisions based upon the Church and its business flow. If a volunteer is consistently unable to do the work s/he agreed to do, the General Manager must ask for a resignation if no alternate solution can be found. This also means the General Manager must be prepared to assume those responsibilities. At the bottom line, the General Manager must guarantee that the Church keeps running smoothly; that requests for information are filled on time and orders for books and publications are filled; and that we keep our word to the world-at-large when they contact us.

A year ago the bookkeeping was done by Rev. Don and was a paid position (minimum wage at best). Recurrent problems with Don's health led to a search for a volunteer bookkeeper. The search led to the General Manager now doing the bookkeeping.

The Bookkeeper records all financial transactions (including barter and money transferred from one budget to another) and sends the financial reports to the Treasurer. It is the bookkeeper's job to keep all records current, reconcile bank statements and provide the BOD with all information necessary. All reports have been generated on time, although we have had no information available from Rev. Don since May 1 regarding the checking account the Church holds in Minneapolis. The BOD is working to resolve this problem.

The General Manager is also responsible for filing all necessary tax papers. The IRS requires that financial information is provided them on an annual basis, following the close of our fiscal year on October 31st. The General Manager will also be given the responsibility of collecting sales tax and sending that to the local State government.

Currently, the General Manager is working with the Eldermentor to help the Church generate additional revenue through an expanded program of publishing. As we near Autumn, the first ritual has been published and notepaper is now offered. There are many more plans, but the expansion and effectiveness of this program is limited by too few people being involved.

Other than the role of Eldermentor, there is no job as demanding and as misunderstood as that of General Manager. It is hoped that, within the next three or four years, the BOD will find someone able to begin learning the tasks and assuming the duties. Until then, you will continue to have my loving labor.

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## Annual Report by the Eldermentor of the Tradition of Lothlorien & the Mystery School of the Rowan Tree Church

The Mystery School has seen exceptional growth and development in the past year. We have seen two First Degree Initiations and, since last year's Autumn report, four new students were accepted for study within the Mystery School. Our 1992 census stood at 18, the exact number for this year's census.

Our current rosters include one Elder, one High Priest and our Bardmaster who, collectively, represent the College of Mentors. Other Initiates include three Priestesses and one Priest, all of whom are working toward Ordination. We have ten Novices, four of whom are progressing toward Initiation.

The most significant changes have been seen with the Bardic Path. Thomas is now working with two Bardic students. A year ago this Path was waiting for its first student. Our Initiates have taken increased roles and have begun learning the skills of Mentorship. This has provided much needed assistance for the Eldermentor.

Major changes have taken place within the Book of shadows. While the Tradition's hand copied version remains reasonably unchanged, tremendous growth has taken place within our Oral Tradition and our Published Tradition. The 'Published Tradition' is an aspect of our BOS in which written work by students is published for students. 'Commentaries' began the new aspect within our Book of Shadows just last year. Some of this material appears in *The Unicorn*. The quality of created work by our Priestesses and Novices is outstanding and reflects a greater level of skill and wisdom than we have previously been publishing of much of this work, joining A Wiccan Bardo as a published work of our Book of Shadows, available and accessible for a larger audience.

During the coming year we expect to see the first of our Initiates reach that point in their Pathworking when they would emerge from the veils of secrecy within The Mystery School and make themselves available to the Church during the final stages leading to their Ordination. These Priest/esses have devoted untold hours both to their Pathworking and to their service (labor) to the Church. It will not be an easy Path, for once openly declared within the Church as candidates for ordination, their lives will never be the same nor can they ever turn back. Wish them well.

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## Annual Report by the retired President of the Board of Directors

With a brief exception, I have been the most active Director on the Board since our Church was founded. During the recent years of my Presidency, I personally completed all of the paperwork and filing which gained us tax-exempt recognition by the Internal Revenue Service as a religious organization and guided the Church through periods of unprecedented maturation.

Recognizing that we now have experienced, knowledgeable people available, I announced to the Board in the June 1 agenda my intent to resign as an active, voting Director. My position as Eldermentor guarantees that I would always be a Director and available to provide insight and guidance in the management of the Church which I established. The Board responded favorably, once assured that they would not be abandoned.

Issues I presented to the Board of Directors which, in my estimation, require their attention and serious concern include (in no particular order):

- Learning to follow the procedure of the BOD which have been established through the Book of Legislation; handling elections; keeping the agendas and responses ongoing and timely; educating the Directors that thoughtful discussion on issues is more important than a simple 'yes' or 'no' answer. The counterpart of this is waking Members to the fact that the Directors represent you and that your interest (or lack of interest) ultimately determines the future survival of the Church.
- Completing the sales-tax forms which are required in the State of California. The Church must begin collecting sales tax on all sales of printed materials. This is past due and requires the Board's immediate attention.
- Providing the Membership with the procedures to follow when a Member wishes to include the Church in a will; leave the Church money through a life insurance policy; leave the Church real property (books, land, royalties, etc.). We have had requests for these procedures and guidelines.
- Working with the Librarian regarding the disposition of the Subscription Library (the 2000+ books) and the Periodical Library. These topics will be discussed in the Librarian's report.
- Communicating the financial information to the Church Members. We work with an annual budget of considerable money. The Mystery School alone generates between three and four thousand

dollars' income. Church Membership donates between five and six thousand dollars. One of the difficulties is that Members find it incomprehensible that we need more than a few dollars a year. The reason? Lists of printed financial reports provide little communication. The Church as a whole needs to work more closely with the Treasurer and find out what all of these numbers mean. You have a right to know where your money goes and if it is being spent wisely. Do you know that our annual costs for printing and postage run as much as five thousand dollars? How much does a Welcome Packet cost to prepare and mail to a new Member? This is the type of information an informed Membership might find of interest.

- With the development of an expanded program of publishing, it is essential that the Directors and the Membership do their best to be informed and involved. There will be a natural human tendency to assume that a long as 'someone' is doing all of this, everything will be just fine. Ask questions. Find out how things are going.
- Fostering interaction and communication between the Members and Directors. I don't know if any volunteer organization with geographical diversity and responsibilities such as ours has a solution for this. It is your responsibility as a Church Member to ask questions. Do you know who the Directors are? Do you hold them responsible for the management of you Church? You should. Do you even know what issues they are currently working on and how they affect you? You should.

Although I have resigned as an active, voting Director, my work is far from done. My commitment to devote my life to the Church's survival, providing the Mystery School and the Tradition of Lothlorien with fertile ground is a solid commitment. To that end I am an editor, publisher, bookkeeper, General Manager, Eldermentor. I am the only Mentor available to prepare Mystery School students for Initiation as they work toward Ordination and provide Thomas, our Bardmaster, with access to my understanding of the Tradition as he works with our first two Bardic students. With the geographical dimensions of our Church, I must be involved in numerous phone calls, offering an ear to some, advice to others, but primarily reminding people of their responsibilities, trying to keep the work done.

I wish the Board well, but they need you, as Members, to be there is support of them and to be there concerned about the quality of a Director's work. And I wish all of you well.

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## Vice President / Acting President's Report

As always, the Board experienced some changes this year. (it seems to keep us fresh...or at least, it keeps us on our toes!) We lost the service of our trusty Scribe, Jim Saigle. However, Tina Houk, who was elected to take his position, has proved to be both energetic and dependable and is an excellent addition to the board of Directors. Also this year, we welcome gerry Beyerl as a non-voting Director, and we're very happy to have him.

As most of the Board's business this year will be discussed in other reports, I'll make my comments brief. I have enjoyed serving on the BOD this last year as Vice President. One of the Vice President's duties is to fill the President's position should he or she be absent for any reason. Little did I think that I would ever take on that task. Yet, this summer, Rev. Paul announced that he would be leaving the Board. This transition took place in July/August, and since that time, I have been in the position of Acting President. His resignation seem a timely thing, however, for one of the Board's goals (unspoken though it may have been) is to learn to function on it's own. The resignation of our former President is just one of many ways in which our dear founder, General Manager, Eldermentor, et al. is pushing the bird out of its comfy nest. Challenging as this may be at times, it is a necessary and welcomed move.

The Board has continued to grow in stability over the last couple of years, and it is my hope that it will continue to grow in strength and assertiveness.

I was pleased to attend the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, held at the Annual Retreat, Aug. 14. It was attended by several Board members, including our Canadian representative, and by Church members as well (including our European representative!) That meeting was a good reminder to the Board that it is not alone.

Often, we fall into the trap of thinking that it's up to the Board to make all the decisions regarding Church business. Well, it is. However, there is a vibrant Rowan Tree Church community out there (this means YOU) from which to draw ideas and information, helpful suggestions and fanciful dreams.

As I prepare this report, I've just received the final tallying of votes to determine the officers for the 1993-1994 Rowan Tree Board of Directors. Wish us luck, and may I urge you, as Church members, to take an active part in your Church by sharing your thoughts and concerns with the Board at any time. We welcome your input because YOU are the Rowan Tree. Blessings and Happy Autumn!

Jami Shoemaker

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### Annual Report from the Secretary

This has been a very exciting year for the Rowan Tree. There have been changes to the membership format which has changed some of our monthly form system. The Rowan Tree News became a subscription item as a means of raising revenue for the Church. The Quarterly was revived and included 3 months of forms that went out to the general membership free of charge.

Initially our membership rosters dropped. However, this was seen as the dead wood cutting loose and moving down stream. The supportive core of the Church maintained their memberships even if they did not subscribe to the Rowan Tree News.

Subscription levels have been holding between 19-25 subscribers and our communities have maintained a steady rate. It is my hope that our community continues to grow and that the support of that community will grow with it.

Blessed Be,

Deirdre Sargent - BOD Secretary

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### Annual Report from the Treasurer of the Rowan Tree Church

Greetings to all of you and Blessed New Year. Now with the quick pleasantries out of the way let's get down to the business at hand. As a non-profit organization, we did extremely well this year at not showing much of a profit, however, we have very little in the way of a balance for this past fiscal year that our overall budget has been greatly affected for the coming year. Several factors are involved in this for example the Mystery School tuition was not quite up to par along with book sales due to publishing problems and also the purchase of a new computer system for the General Manager/Volunteer Bookkeeper in which the monies needed were borrowed from the Land Fund, then paid back from various areas of the RT Budget (i.e., Mystery School, General Budget, etc.), the expense of which are trying to be recovered through sales of stationary and donations.

This year's final balance was resulted from \$11,187.19 in income minus \$10,414.83 in expenses leaving a balance of \$772.36. Now that may sound good, but consider a carry over balance of \$609.47 from 1991-1992 and we only had a \$162.89 balance for 1992-1993.

To get a little better idea, for example the closing balance for the Rowan Tree General Budget (which covers postage, mailing, phone class, etc.) is \$2.31. That is what the Gen. budget has available to go into this new year with. Items such as The Unicorn and The Littlest Unicorn and Mystery School all have larger year end balances, but those can be easily eaten up in operating expenses. Especially Mystery School with the mailings, phone calls, tapes, etc. used by the Eldermentor to facilitate communications and contact with his students.

The Periodical Library balance for 1992-1993 is \$53.37. That is also not much when considering new book purchases, along with maintaining the existing library. The Library is also facing the possibility of a move to a new home in the next year or two, and the expenses of that move, if they are not in the budget, will have to come from others such as the Gen. or M.S. budgets.

As a non-profit organization, we are not here to make money, but at the same time we do need to maintain and cover our various expenses. For example, Post Office expenses for the RTC this years was \$1842.10 with better

than a third of that being M.S. mailings. That does NOT include RTNews postage or BOD postage. This is *everyone's* Church and it needs to be supported.

As far as Church efforts to gain revenue to cover expenses and to also repay the budgets for the expense of the new computer, as most of you should be aware, we began offering the beautiful "Merry Meet" stationary designed and drawn by Dianne from New Jersey. We are also as in the past, offer various Sabbat rituals for purchase (i.e. - Hallowmas and Yule. The Wiccan Bardo and The Master Book of Herbalism continue to be published and soon we will be seeing a new couple of books. The Holy Books of the Devas (also illustrated by Dianne) and Painless Astrology, both by Rev. Paul Beyerl are on the way to the publishers. But we still need your support. Without you, in every way, there would be no Rowan Tree Church.

If there are any questions or comments relating to this report, budgets or bookkeeping, pleas direct them to Derek VanSpoor, 1124 Center Point Road NE #16, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402.

Thank you and brightest Blessings to each of you!

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### Acting Scribe's Report, Annual Report 1993

I was appointed to the BOD toward the middle of the year and assumed the acting position of Scribe for the publication of the July issue of the Quarterly. Publication of the Quarterly is the main job of the Scribe, although during the recent BOD elections it also included ensuring that all Church members received a ballot rather than just RTNews subscribers. Thanks to Deirdre Sargent for assistance on the July issue. Thanks should go to Jim Saigle whose previous work covered the first half of the year.

The Quarterly continues to be the one publication that all Church members receive. It contains the activities of the board for the three month period since the previous publication, the financial report from the Treasurer and a three month supply of monthly forms; it is the publication that communicates the business of the Church to its members. It is desirable to keep the Quarterly as 'thin' as possible for financial reasons and content-wise the RTNews and the Unicorn are designed to showcase the creative work of the Church rather than the Quarterly.

The viewpoint of the Scribe is one concerned with the history of the events of the Church and the recording of those events for the body of the Church: this is not necessarily confined to the activities of the BOD and it is my intention to continue to develop this position along this line during the current year.

Peace be with you,

Tina Houk

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### Annual Report by the Editor of The Unicorn

This completes the 16th year I have been editing and publishing *The Unicorn* (excepting a brief sabbatical about ten years ago.) From its early phase as a handwritten quarterly, *The Unicorn* holds a venerable position among Wiccan publications. It is likely that ours is the oldest. Circle has published a newsletter about a year longer, but this has been under several different names, each replacing its predecessor.

Major changes over the past year have been seen in the shift of contributed content so that now about 90% is derived from Mystery School students. The staff has grown and now includes gerry Beyerl as assistant editor and Tina Houk who handles distribution.

Concerns we must face during the coming year include a continuing decline in paid subscribers. In the past five years, our paid subscriptions are half of what they were at their high, in 1989. It is believed that a change in how *The Unicorn* presents itself and is promoted might be the most effective change. We believe that our content and appearance have never been better. In fact, we recently received a request from Gavin Frost to reprint two of the articles for the students enrolled in their School of Wicca.

It is possible that paid advertising, such as a modest display ad in a publication like *The Green Egg*, promoting the 17th year of *The Unicorn* with a subtitle like, 'A Wiccan Reader' might communicate to a potential audience

that we carry high-quality material for literate Wiccans. The publishing market is highly crowded these days and we must create our own niche in this market if we wish to survive.

During the coming fiscal year, we ask that Rowan Tree Church Members take a stronger interest in *The Unicorn*. We would like to see more Members use *The Unicorn* as a means of communicating with a larger community, one which is like an 'outer circle' for our Church. To raise funds, we'd like Members to consider subscriptions worth giving as gifts to friends. This is our newsletter and its survival and health must be a group effort.

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## Annual Report from the Editor of the Rowan Tree News

**G**reetings and brightest blessings to all! Well, we have definitely gone through some changes since last year. The most visible of which was the switch to a 'subscription' system. This alone has greatly affected the RTNews. Our readership since this change last November, has left us with on the average of 18 subscribers per issue. This is disappointing as far as trying to communicate to the Church as a whole, which has basically become the responsibility of the RT Quarterly. This has also affected the amount of contribution each month to the RTNews for print. Contributions have become exceedingly low, at times leaving it to the editorship to 'create' articles to simply fill only a few pages. Hopes would be to the readership and involvement in the content of future issues over the next year.

There has also been changes within the editorship with involvement roles going from community involvement of household involvement. These issues have been attempted to be resolved by the community and for the time being, the RTNews looks to continue with only a 1 or 2 person staff. The RTNews has also gone through some address changes and will possibly go through one or two more in the near future. Readership will be advised and steps are being taken to avoid confusion and work on their part.

There have been some new articles created over the past year which seem information to the readership such as Herbe of the month (in sync with the rituals) and book reviews. Some have been attempted and addressed several times but with lack of involvement such as the Penpal column. This in particular is still in consideration with steps being looked at to make it an easy process for the readers. We do hope however to see more news, articles, reviews and artwork from existing and new readers around the nation and world with respect to Canada and Switzerland.

Blessings to all at the Autumnal Equinox and to all reading the annual report! If any questions, comments or concerns should arise regarding the content, printing and publishing of the Rowan Tree News, please contact Derek VanSpoor, 1124 Center Point Road NE #16, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402.

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## Annual Report by the Librarian of The Rowan Tree Church

**O**ur libraries are very quiet these days. The primary budget is derived from 25% of the tuition paid by Mystery School students, money which, in past years, was used to expand the Subscription Library and maintain the Periodical Library.

This year the majority of that money has been used to shore up the financial levees of other Church budgets. The low usage of the subscription library has not warranted investment in new books at this time. The primary issue being dealt with is the future of the library.

The Tape Library is in the capable hands of David Coleman in Delano, Minnesota. David has done an exceptional job and is the finest tape librarian we have ever had.

The Periodical Library continues to expand. We are seeking a new home as this library requires more care and maintenance than Rev. Don has been able to provide. In addition, it is time for the Periodical Library to be in the hands of a Community who would make use of it and begin planning for the preservation project which is deeply needed.

The Subscription Library remains under the care of Rev. Don Schaper as assistant librarian. Difficulties Don has had in responding to requests for books are believed to be changing. His health has improved and it is believed that there will once again be a Minneapolis Community which could provide one or two volunteers. The

Subscription Library requires considerable maintenance. With more than 2,000 volumes, it dominates considerable space. The coming year will determine whether our needs are met. We need one or two active assistant librarians who will handle the duties required: maintenance includes keeping the books in order, making certain the library shelves match the catalog listing, doing repairs, responding to requests for books within one or two days, and promoting usage of the library among the Membership.

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## The Galadhrim Society of Unicorns: Annual Report (Autumn Equinox 1992 ce - Autumn Equinox 1993 ce)

**T**his annual report marks the conclusion of my post as coordinator of the Galadhrim Society of Unicorns. At this year's Annual Retreat (12 - 15 vii 1993 ce), Ron Weroski accepted the Galadhrim Chalice, thus becoming the Society's third coordinator.

During the past liturgical/fiscal year, the Galadhrim have maintained their four ministries which serve the Church community: the Healing Circles; the Recovery Outreach (formerly the Twelve Step Support System); the Prisoner Outreach Program and coordination of the RTC's Annual Retreat & Campout.

Though the board of Directors is not an 'official' ministry, Society members have continually been involved in director capacities. This past year was no exception. 'Lizard' Frank Cordeiro and Ron Weroski both served as non-voting directors. TaL served as a voting director. During this liturgical/fiscal year, Ron will serve as Board vice president. TaL and Lizard will continue as voting and nonvoting directors, respectively.

We are happy to announce the Dedication of two new members to our Society, Derek 'Lonewolf' VanSpoor and Christina 'Neferaset' VanSpoor, which took place at the last Retreat. We are sure Lonewolf and Neferaset will bless our Membership with their involvement in the Rowan Tree. Lonewolf serves as the editor of the RTNews, and Neferaset plans on interacting with the Prisoner Outreach and joining the Healing Circles.

Currently, Ron is working an adaption of the Society's Dedication Ritual to be placed on audio cassette. This ritual, was originally created for the Society by Rev. Paul Beyerl, Church founder & Eldermentor, to be enacted with a Society member and the Dedicant in person. However, after much reflection, the Galadhrim found this problematic, due to the Church Membership's geographic spread.

Though an 'in person' ritual is desired, the audio cassette version will allow Church members (including those incarcerated) to join the Society despite the physical distance and/or circumstance which may separate them. Once the cassette version is completed, we expect two Church members to join us 'honorary Unicorns'.

### **Some words about the ministries...**

**Healing Circles** are administered through Ron Weroski of the Canadian Office. The ritual times have been published regularly in the RTNew's Ritual Calendar. All Church members are encouraged to join the Galadhrim in weaving healing Magick to fulfill requests kept within the Healing Chalice. Ron has established an altar, upon which the Healing Chalice and an eternal flame are kept burning. We, the Galadhrim have been very encouraged that various Church members are joining us regularly for the Circles and hope more join us in the future. Our 'ritual of choice' is The Child of Light and the incense used is sandalwood. We invite the Church to continue sending their healing requests for themselves and their loved ones to the Canadian Office.

**The Recovery Outreach** is administrated by John 'TaL' Schuh, of the Chicago Community. During the past year, TaL has networked with Church members who are actively recovering from substance abuse and/or dysfunction life situations.

Though response has not been great among the Church members to this ministry, the Eldermentor felt it an important one to maintain. Now that TaL is free from the responsibility of being Society coordinator, he will focus more upon this Outreach. Special thanks goes to 'Eowyn', who wrote a series of three articles for RTNews detailing her path in recovery.

**Prisoner Outreach Program (POP)** is administrated by 'Lizard' Frank Cordeiro, of the L.A. Community. The Prisoner Outreach has continued its mission to serve as a resource for our incarcerated Members. lizard has been responsible for copying & distributing RTNews to POP members. Additionally, he has copied & distributed a free newsletter for incarcerated Pagans called, Hidden Stars.

The Church membership and Mystery School students have been encouraged to correspond with incarcerated Church Members. The Galadhrim Society would again like to encourage the Membership to consider our fellow

Members in prison. Beside loneliness, Pagans in prison continue to struggle for the very freedoms we enjoy in practicing our religion. Thus your fellowship is deeply appreciated.

**RTC's Annual Retreat & Campout** (12 - 14 vii 1993 ce) was coordinated by TaL, with the direction of Rev. Don Schaper. A comprehensive letter outlining the Retreat information and a schedule was sent to the Membership in May. Learning from last year, TaL made an announcement in RTNews early in '93. However, he made the 'unique' mistake of not informing the State Park. Hence, this year's Retreat was held in mid-August, rather than around Lammas. This year was also unique from past years in that neither Rev. Don nor Rev. Paul were able to attend. However, the Retreat was quite successful, having four workshops (given by Neferaset, Willi Schoch, Jami 'Faelyn' Shoemaker & Ron Weroski), a main workshop, a Galadhrim Dedication Ritual, the Galadhrim's First Conclave, and the Board's Annual Meeting. As in past years ad becoming a tradition of its own, the Mother blessed us with the Element Water. This year's retreat was attended by twelve Church members from California, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Switzerland.

In closing...

This past year can be best described as 'challenging' for the Society's members, including our two new honorary Unicorns. Despite the successes we have enjoyed with our ministries, we the Galadhrim have lacked active communications among ourselves. This has not resulted in any negative energies among us, but neither have we strengthened our sense of community within our Society itself.

As a Society, our challenge will be to foster a deeper sense of Unicornhood among ourselves--to be a support to each other during challenging times as well as celebrate the joyous ones. I passed the Chalice to Ron knowing full well that the Galadhrim Society will flourish, thus helping the Lothlorien Wiccan religion and the Rowan Tree Church to blossom & bloom.

Blessed Be,

John 'TaL' Schuh  
Second Coordinator  
Galadhrim Society of Unicorns

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## Galadhrim Annual Report 1993ce, from Coordinator Ron Weroski

**T**he last year within the Galadhrim, The Society of the Unicorns may on the surface seemed to be a quiet time wherein not much has been happening, but under the surface I feel that the Galadhrim is undergoing something of a change. While the original intention of the society has not changed, there is a shift in the focus as to what can perhaps be expected of members. Rather than a great deal of mundane activity in the way of support for the Church community, the Society, I feel, is finding a place within the role of spiritual ministry. The three major functions of the Galadhrim presently include the Prisoner Outreach Program, the Twelve Step Program, and the monthly Child of Light Rituals, all of these activities play what I believe to be an important role within the Rowan Tree Church and the Tradition of Lothlorien, within the framework of a lay-person ministry. While not everyone has the means or the time to volunteer for the many things that could be done within the Church, the Galadhrim is an outlet to be formally committed to the Church and strictly work within a spiritual manner which is also needed within any religious denomination. And in this way the Galadhrim could also be an option for those who wish to be committed to the Church but do not desire to pursue Priest/esshood.

The membership of the Galadhrim has increased by two, bring full membership up to five people. These new Unicorns were brought into the Society at the Annual retreat and I wish to express my joy at their commitment. It is of great priority to me that the Induction Ritual be modified and put onto tape so that those who wish to become members and cannot make the retreat will not be left out in the cold, and this will be done before Yule. I also feel that with a greater visibility within the RT News that perhaps more people will make use of the services provided by the Society, and I will suggest to the BOD that a small column for the Society be placed within the Monthly newsletter.

The Society will also be in closer contact with each other through a mailing which will center around the date of the Sabbats, where we will let each other know of what is going on within our lives, and if we need a friendly voice, or letter. And while this may seem to be a little thing it may become an important function of the Society in the way of being able, and feeling uninhibited to turn to your Church community when things are rough, or when you wish to share the blessings of you life.

I would like to offer up a great 'Thank-You' to TaL who has really kept things together for the past year, I feel that the work he has done is to be commended, and will lead to a bright future for the work of the Galadhrim..."For these humans are known to you as the guardians of our Church, the stewards of the Rowan Tree. They have committed themselves to the work of preservation, the work of providing all of you with a Church which will survive for generations to come..."

Many Blessings,  
Ron Weroski

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**The Littlest Unicorn, Annual Report - Hallowmas 1993: by Helen Voelker (Correspondence Editor) & Rev. Don Schaper (Production Editor)**

**T**he past year was one which sent mixed messages about The Littlest Unicorn. A small group of dedicated individuals consistently provided excellent material for each issue. On the other hand, material is scarce enough for the issues to be an average of four double-side pages instead of the desired five (five representing both the postage limit for first class weight at 29 cents and enough material to keep the readers interested). While the quality of the prose, poetry and artwork run continually increases the number of subscribers have dwindled throughout the year. The Littlest Unicorn ended the year with 16 subscribers.

A complaint that was heard more than once in the last year from subscribers was that each issue tended to arrive after the Sabbat. This had to have had the affect of decreasing the subscriber's interests. There are two reasons for the consistent lateness. First, Rev. Don's lack of timeliness...And second, material submitted for publication tends to arrive about a week before the Sabbat. A mixture of the two issues forces the publication into a schedule that is later than the ideal.

At one point in the past year the two editors discussed the possibility of asking the Board of Directors to discuss ending publication. They wondered if TLU were as relevant to the needs of Pagan children and their parents as it once was. The Littlest Unicorn began in 1985 and was one of the first zines to be directed toward this niche. Now, there are a number of excellent publications devoted to pagan children and parenting. The editors decided to adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

The mission for the editors in the coming year should be to concentrate on getting new subscribers. Rowan Tree Church member subscriptions are minimal, so efforts will be made to increase this number. Also, review copies of The Littlest Unicorn will be made to increase this number. Also, review copies of The Littlest Unicorn will be sent occasionally to the publishers of various Pagan zines, with the request that they pass it around. These actions should increase subscriptions quite nicely.

A secondary mission for the next year will be to fill out each issue to five pages with the same quality of material currently being published.