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Annual Report, Hallows

Rowan Tree Church

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It was twenty years ago today...

The Rowan Tree Church
17th Annual Report
Hallows 1998 ce - Hallows 1999 ce



Lothloriën is now maturing and able to observe a growing collection of 'historic' dates. As we enter the year 2000 ce we will observe the 20th anniversary of the legal recognition of our Church as a religious, nonprofit corporation. That year was an amazing time for me. *The Unicorn* had emerged from being a free mailing to a 'real' Wiccan newsletter, complete with many contributors, graphics and artwork the envy of other editors. The library had been established and there was a group meeting every Sunday morning in my apartment on Oak Grove, the most prominent of religious hills in Minneapolis. We shared the hill with the Roman Catholic basilica, the Episcopal cathedral, a huge Methodist church, the largest Christian Science reading room and, right at the top of the hill, the Mason's Scottish Rite Temple. We received our corporate recognition by the State of Minnesota on February 4th, 1980 ce.

Since then The Tradition of Lothloriën has both remained the same and also continued to grow and expand. The training program has become more complete and comprehensive, emerging as The Mystery School within the next year of Church history. And I have grown as well, leaving those roots behind in order to pursue the journey the Mother set before me. Now my roots grow deep and the Church is woven into the fabric of my days and of my schedule. Many think that I and the Church are one, but it is not so. You are the Church. I was merely the tool for its creation.

Each year's work on the Annual Report (which encompasses literally dozens of hours) gives me pause for reflection. What has changed since last year? Here at The Hermit's Grove we've seen growth in our local Community. For a time last winter we thought we might need to begin renting space and actually scheduled a ritual at the Bellevue Unitarian Church. With only a few people attending, we realized that we're simply at that awkward, in-between state and that there may be times we won't be able to accommodate everyone but we're not yet able to afford the rental of a larger space on a regular basis.

Two major events took place this year: the first was the publication of a new edition of *A Wiccan Bardo, Revisited*. The third book published by The Hermit's Grove, it was a sometimes laborious task as each page was worked and prepared and the entire book pasted up by hand. Every aspect of the book save for duplication and binding was done at The Hermit's Grove by myself, with gerry's assistance. The text is not so much different although the passage of time is reflected in the new introduction to each chapter.

The other major event was the creation of a new web site for The Rowan Tree Church. The internet address is www.therowantreechurch.org. In the coming year we hope to

see a Church Member able to assume the role of web master, keeping the site current and making changes. At present we hire the services of a designer who has graciously charged us only half his usual rate.

We are an unusual 'Church.' It is through printing and postage that we can exist as we do. We receive occasional suggestions for ways which might reduce postage. Now and then someone recommends a postage meter. The reality is that a postage meter incurs the same postage costs *plus* the several hundred dollars for a postage meter! From a Member's perspective it also seems as if we might hang onto all the various newsletters and mail for one person and send it at once in a manilla envelope. Our needs are determined by three people working in a very small space, sharing office duties with The Hermit's Grove and other projects. We simply could not move forward were we to keep various stacks of outgoing mail... mail for *The Unicorn* and The Mystery School and *The Rowan Tree News* and the Board of Directors plus personal responses. In addition, the bookkeeping aspect of trying to sort out the percentage of each stamp used for the various budgets would add far too much complication and time. You'll have to trust us in these matters.

Let's examine some of these costs.

total postage including box rent and UPS shipping

RT General budget	\$941.42
POP books	30.44
Mystery School	317.06
Subscription Library	144.05
Periodical Library	56.34
Tape Library	20.76
<i>The Unicorn</i>	169.91
<i>The Littlest Unicorn</i>	49.00
total	\$1,728.98

Did that \$941.42 figure seem high? Box rent took \$44.00. *The Rowan Tree News* alone took \$315.71. Sending out promotional materials to those who requested information was \$244.46. The remainder represents a total cost of less than a dollar a day and includes the letters you receive from Rev. Paul and from gerry! Not bad at all!!!

Printing is another major expense. Here's how all of our printing costs added up:

t-shirt flyer	\$ 6.00
promotional materials	212.94
Merry Meet notepaper	36.00
<i>The Rowan Tree News</i>	235.25
misc. printing	7.00
The Mystery School	261.70

Periodical Library	71.50
<i>The Unicorn</i>	250.50
<i>The Littlest Unicorn</i>	118.82
Retreat flyers	11.50
total	\$1,201.21

It was fitting as we closed the current year that the Autumn issue of *The Unicorn* heralded the twentieth anniversary of the announcement that we had become The Rowan Tree Church, the name chosen as we moved between Lammass and Autumn. Is it not comforting to know that we have been The Rowan Tree Church for two decades? And with your help and that of Lothlorien's family, The Rowan Tree Church will be here for decades to come.

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

Financial Statements 1998-1999

Looking at the individual budgets we can compare the beginning and ending balances for a quick overview of the year's progress.

budget	beginning	ending	difference
Church General Budget	\$323.62	90.85	-232.77
Mystery School	303.48	169.11	-134.37
Subscription Library	94.48	169.61	-75.13
Periodical Library	82.06	96.61	+14.54
<i>The Unicorn</i>	178.47	87.96	-90.51
<i>The Littlest Unicorn</i>	233.50	240.04	+6.54
Annual Retreat	177.60	242.88	+65.28
t-shirt	65.00	195.70	+130.70
net gain/loss			- \$315.72

The overview of these budgets is that we didn't do so well. There are reasons for this ranging from the one-time expenses of putting the Church's web site out onto the Internet to expenses incurred in keeping the computers running, a luxury item in many Members' homes but a business essential if you are to have a Church such as ours remain functional.

We are not a large organization. With just under 50 Members (on 1 xi 1999 ce), we maintain three newsletters for our Members, two of which are primarily circulated beyond the circle of our Church. We have a substantial library. The Church owns an acre of prime real estate which is evolving as the gardens of Lothlorien. We gather once a year for the Annual Retreat yet maintain our homes from New York and Florida to California and Washington and from Texas to Canada. What keeps us together? In large part, the answer to that question is found in the work done in a small (only 9 x 11 foot) office here in the cottage at The Hermit's Grove. We are held together within the reach of *The Rowan Tree News*, we share the forms of The Ritual of Lothlorien, read each other's letters, know that a monthly healing ritual is conducted. We are brought together through A Wiccan Bardo. Revisited and The Holy Books of the Devas. We know that one of

Lothlorien's goals is to provide us with a spiritual path extending beyond the confines of this incarnation. Some choose to pursue training leading to Initiation and Ordination within The Mystery School. It is easy to believe that the only cost incurred per Member is that of *The Rowan Tree News* but we must create materials in print and in the internet media which present us to the larger world. Using graphics and computer programs we publish our rituals, our promotional materials and provide the web site. Each Member shares in the financial responsibility for all of the work which your Church represents, including the postage and printing and production costs for the materials sent to hundreds of people each year of which only a small number discover that, for them, Lothlorien is their spiritual home. What are these costs? And where does the money come from?

The importance of Member donations

Our largest single source of income is from Member donations and, to present an honest, fair view of Member donations, it should be pointed out that our strongest financial supporters are found among the Directors. Those who do the work of the Church are not the recipients of your money, they are the strongest contributors. A conservative estimate is that it takes about \$6.00 per Member per month to run our Church. This is a very small amount of money and yet, in reality, in an average month most Members make no contribution. Let's look at this past year:

November, 1998	\$225.31
December, 1998	253.00
January, 1999	339.81
February, 1999	271.55
March, 1999	263.53
April, 1999	382.37
May, 1999	246.82
June, 1999	424.79
July, 1999	239.64
August, 1999	261.10
September, 1999	195.12
October, 1999	290.04
total donations	\$3,393.08

How was this donation money allocated? Some, when specified by Members, goes to specific projects but of your basic Member donation 95% goes directly to the General Budget. Some years back the Board of Directors voted to allocate 5% of a general donation to the Periodical Library which provides it's sole source of income. Member donations were allocated as follows:

RT General Budget	\$3,004.68
POP book project	21.45
Ritual space needs	35.00
Mystery School	3.00
Subscription Library	59.60
Periodical Library	155.46
Tape Library	20.76
The Unicorn	10.00

The Littlest Unicorn	45.74
Annual Retreat	10.00
Land Fund	22.39
donation to Rev. Paul	5.00
total donations:	\$3,393.08

fund-raising

Through the creative generosity of several Members, we offer a number of fund-raising projects. Without any expenses deducted (e.g. purchasing new t-shirts, printing the notepaper), the figures were:

donations toward computer expenses	\$60.00
sale of original <u>Holy Books</u> (Land Fund money)	28.00
Yule donations, 1999 ce	106.00
sale of Dancing Fox's tape (TLU money)	12.00
sapphire project	30.00
calendula salve	23.00
Retreat 1999 tapes	5.00
Merry Meet notepaper	53.00
t-shirt sales	199.20

Where does our money come from?

If we look at all Church budgets, from The Mystery School and its publishing program to book sales, newsletter subscriptions, Member donations and fundraising and other aspects of our work, incoming monies are as follows:

beginning of year balances	\$1,585.78
Member donations	3,393.08
Beyerl donations toward property tax	1,632.47
donations toward computer expense	60.00
Member Yule donations	106.00
misc. Member purchase	7.00
Purchase of Dancing Fox tapes	12.00
sapphire fund raising	30.00
calendula fund raising	12.00
Retreat tape fund raising	5.00
TU and TLU Member subscriptions	134.75
Yellowstone Retreat deposits	145.00
Mystery School tuition	2,817.00
donations by nonmembers	163.90
sample packets	110.00
Merry Meet notepaper	53.00
Colouring Book of Numbers	10.50
The Ritual of Lothlorien	121.13
The Child of Light	58.00
Sabbat Journeys	266.50
Astral Pursuit	9.50
The Wheel of the Year	70.50
The Hallows Ritual	29.50
<u>The Master Book of Herbalism</u>	60.35
<u>The Holy Books of the Devas</u>	204.40
<u>A Wiccan Reader</u>	58.00
<u>A Wiccan Bardo</u> (old edition)	212.51
<u>A Wiccan Bardo. Revisited</u>	227.69
The Ritual for the Dead	10.14
The Yule Ritual of Lothlorien	13.50
The Lesser Banishing Pentagram Ritual	7.00

The Ritual for Fall	7.00
The Lammass Ritual	7.00
library catalogs	7.50
The Hatchling	13.50
misc. donations	92.29
books sold by the Hermit's Grove shop	613.34
t-shirt sales	199.20
(old) Holy Books	21.00
subscriptions (TU and TLU)	379.05
sample issues (TU and TLU)	27.95
POP books sold for cash	40.00
sales tax collected	58.47
property tax held in savings	240.00
previously collected retreat money	242.88
misc.	1.29
total income:	\$13,576.67

And where did it go? Again, this report has added all budgets together, including the Church, *The Unicorn*, The Mystery School, the libraries, etc:

postal expenses	\$1,728.98
travel stipend	125.00
web site	365.25
Minnesota agent	220.00
total printing	1,201.21
office materials	608.00
advertising	58.00
book purchases	1,419.71
educational materials	49.80
subscriptions	59.00
ritual materials	97.54
misc. expenses	36.50
equipment	50.91
computer expenses	540.82
telephone expenses	857.89
repair and maintenance	82.00
ritual site rent	25.00
storage locker rent	530.00
portable toilet rent	461.12
retreat expenses	80.00
legal fees	10.00
bank fees, checks	44.65
fund disbursements (royalties, etc.)	1,239.54
sales tax paid	49.35
property tax paid	1,494.94
retreat money transferred	65.28
money transferred to savings	258.02
total	11,758.55
balance at end of year:	\$1,818.12

[Includes money saved for Land Fund, Retreat deposits, 1999 sales tax collected but not yet paid, etc.]

Web Site and Computer Expenses

The start-up of the web site included understandable expenses. Registration of the web site address for the first two years was \$70.00. We are billed \$16.00 per month from the

site host plus the start up fee of \$50.00 and \$10.00 for the counter. All additional expenses covered the cost of the site designer. Until such time as the Church has its own webmaster, we pay an hourly rate for all work done. Our expenses:

RT General Budget	\$225.25
Mystery School	75.00
Subscription Library	10.00
<i>The Unicorn</i>	30.00
<i>The Littlest Unicorn</i>	25.00

There was also computer expense. The amount of work done by the computer on Rev. Paul's desk and the church's entry into the Internet required a new computer. Most of the expenses incurred this year are for repair, maintenance and software upgrades which were necessary. Trust me, I don't enjoy that process and have avoided it as much as possible. Computer expenses were paid by the following budgets:

RT General Budget	\$246.97
Mystery School	218.28
Subscription Library	57.00
Periodical Library	13.57
<i>The Unicorn</i>	5.00
total	\$540.82

If this seems like a lot of money, it should be noted that The Hermit's Grove spent a total of \$1927.34 during the same period of time. As the computer is used at least half of the time for Church activities, The Hermit's Grove has graciously subsidized a significant amount of Church expense.

Communication from the Board

Vice-President, Board of Directors

Dear Church Members,

I wish to thank you for permitting me to serve The Rowan Tree Church as a Member of the Board of Directors during this first year of a two year term.

I sat in the Vice President's chair. I participated in the monthly Board of Directors meetings. One of the projects assigned to me was researching the Canadian regulations governing The Rowan Tree Church operating in Canada as a "Foreign Corporation doing business in Canada." Also upon the request of the Board, I filed the change of registered address for The Rowan Tree Church's office in Canada.

The Church continues to make progress. Thank you for your support and cooperation in manifesting our dreams.

In service, Jim Saigle, Vice President

Secretary, Board of Directors

Greetings to you all!

i have had the privilege of serving in the capacity of Secretary to the Board of Directors for the past year. This

position allows me to have interaction with all of the Church Members, which continues to be a fascinating and enjoyable experience.

Many of you have been very important in the continuation of the RTNews by sending regular and positive correspondence for publication. i would encourage all Members to write a note or letter to send along with their monthly form. If each Member wrote every other month, the RTNews would be filled to over-flowing with fun information about what is happening around the country. We enjoy your weather reports, your garden or plant news, family items, pet news or generally anything else you would like to share

This past Summer has seen a slow-down in my response time to your letters compared to response time during the Winter. i appreciate your patience in this. Gardening must get done when the weather allows, and that sometimes delays office work for all of us at the Grove. i do like to respond to each of your letters, forms, notes and donations. Please know that you are part of my family and i am interested in how you are doing spiritually, physically and emotionally.

The number of Members in the Rowan Tree Church has remained fairly consistent from month to month, though a few have left and some new seekers have joined. It is good to know that most of the Members feel that what we are doing is worthy of their continuing time and consideration, as well as their donations.

Again this year, i was granted the proxies of two of the other voting Directors who could not attend the Annual Board Meeting held here at the Grove during the Annual Retreat. i was pleased with the progress we made at the Annual Meeting concerning the new web-site for the Church. Please, if you have access to a computer on the internet, pay a visit and see what your Church is doing to enter the next millennium.

i continue to send out the two- and three-month reminders to Members who have not submitted Membership forms or responded during a past two or three month period. Membership lists are kept current in the archives, and copies of current lists are sent to the Tape Librarian each month. It is no longer necessary to send one to the RTNews Editor, since that publication is now printed here at the Grove. i am continuing with Rev. Ron's good idea of the "Where are we?" column each month, helping people to see that we are indeed a wide-spread organization.

Working with the Scribe, i set the schedule for, print the ballots for, organize the statements of the candidates for, and assist in the publishing of the results of - the Annual Election of the Board of Directors. (Whew! That was some sentence!) The addition of the "Voter's Guide" [the page which repeats the statements sent in by the candidates, which have been published also in the RTNews] was the result of a suggestion by a Member. We respond to your suggestions!

If you have any questions about your Membership, or about my duties as Secretary, please send me a note. In less than a year, i hope to be seeing many of you at Yellowstone for next year's Annual Retreat. Blessings, gerry Beyerl

Treasurer, Board of Directors

I have served as Treasurer for The Rowan Tree Church for the last four years. During this time, many of the same issues have arisen time and again for the Church. One of these is Member support and financial participation. This year, Rev. Paul set goals for Member donations each month. These included not only donation amounts, but also number of donating Members. Most months, we as a Church have fallen short of our goals. But it has been gratifying to see how many Members do donate to the Church. When we are struggling to make ends meet in our own lives, it can be difficult to remember to give something to others. Perhaps at this time of the turning of the Wheel, when we plant what we hope to harvest in the year being born, each of us can pledge to support The Rowan Tree Church with our dollars, as well as our love. And remember that everything you put out into the world comes back to you three times over. Wishing you all a wonderful year.

Blessed Be, Donna Lewin, Treasurer

Scribe, Board of Directors

There have been no major changes in the responsibilities of the Board Scribe, nor do I foresee any change in the coming year. I continue to write the column, "Notes from the Board," for the Rowan Tree News. I also serve as an assistant or back-up for the Treasurer when the quarterly and annual audits are done.

I have held this position for several years and will gladly continue as long as it is desired by the Church Membership. I enjoy writing the "Notes" largely because it provides an important avenue of contact between the Board and the Membership.

Respectfully, Tricia Youngquist, Scribe

Other Important Folk on the Board

This was an exciting year for me at the Rowan Tree Church. I became a voting director at around mid year. I didn't really have a position such as Secretary. However, I take the opportunity seriously and have been diligently responding to the agendas.

There have been other activities as well regarding the Church. For the first part of the year I submitted financial reports. The board decided that these could be done on a sporadic basis and I haven't submitted one now for about four months. I think it is good to periodically have a financial report in the Rowan Tree News. My hope is to put one in ever quarter.

My outside ministries have included working at a Wildlife Rehabilitation center. This has been very fulfilling work for me. It is grueling and not very pretty but I have had the opportunity to work with many types of animals that I wouldn't normally have the chance to.

I feel I have grown in responsibility this year with the church. I take my voting on different issues very seriously and hope that I can make a difference. My goal is to continue to grow in my role with the Rowan Tree Church. It has been a privilege to serve in the board.

Cat McCabe, Voting Director

The Rowan Tree News

This past year it became necessary for us to begin publishing *The Rowan Tree News* here in Kirkland. Although we have an already full schedule, it was not as difficult as might have been imagined. Previously, our Secretary would type up letters and articles sent here and fax the material to Rev. Ron who would then retype it for each issue. Given that 75% of each issue was already being typed at the desk next to mine, it was a simple process to shift the actual publishing to my desk.

In accepting this responsibility, my goal was to shift the content of our monthly publication so that it included more of the letters and articles. Under Rev. Ron we had a more attractive and entertaining publication but, as President and Founder, I wanted to experiment with a publication which, even when filled with type, presented much more of the Members' news and views. The response has been most favorable. A couple of Members miss Rev. Ron's cheerful style and we still hope for his return.

In the meantime, the Kirkland office will continue to produce *The Rowan Tree News*, assuring you that each month's issues (even when the editor misses changing the date in the masthead or monthly form!) will reach you as near the 1st of the month as possible.

Rev. Paul, editor

www.therowantreechurch.org

At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors the decision was made to create a new web site. We had been unsuccessful in being able to have the original site maintained. Although popular, the ritual schedule on that site, oix.com/~trtc, was nearly a year old and none of the changes in publications, new books, prices changes (etc.) were being made.

A domain name was applied for and implemented which more clearly reflected our identity. Although many were considered, the above name was the one receiving the most points when the BOD voted.

The new web site has proven popular. In only a month it has had over 400 visits. It was designed by Jim Ward of San Francisco, a professional hired by The Hermit's Grove to create www.thehermitsgrove.org at the beginning of the year. We are pleased to inform you that Mr. Ward greatly discounted his services and it cost less than half of what we would pay any other professional. The site was designed so that it can grow, evolve and be updated with little effort.

As we enter this new year our webmaster will be Lizard Frank and the committee managing the site will be Rev. Paul and Lizard Frank.

The cost of creating the site is derived from Member donation (web site expenses are paid from the Rowan Tree's General Budget). Just as the commitment was made to invest about \$250.00 for the initial start up cost, Member donations fell off dramatically. It is our hope that our Members will come through. Member feedback is strongly encouraged.

The Unicorn

Subscription levels are up 10% from a year ago. We had a very successful contest for Church Members, asking them to write their views. The articles were rated well by our subscribers.

The Unicorn, now in its 23rd year, continues as a role model among Wiccan newsletters. It is designed so that each issue is no more than letter sized and yet, the ten pages (still just a first class stamp) are filled with letters, articles, poetry, artwork, and the continuing episodes of 'The Hatchling,' which chronicles Unicorn lore and contains much of the contemporary history of Lothloriën written into the events and characters.

Member's of today's Rowan Tree Church may have difficulty realizing how important *The Unicorn* is to Lothloriën. *The Unicorn* was in publication even before The Rowan Tree Church was named and organized. In many ways, our primary newsletter was a focal point which greatly helped our Church come into being. Even today *The Unicorn* is our primary outreach beyond the circle of our Members and that of *The Rowan Tree News*.

We are uncertain whether to serialize 'The Hatchling' through the web site or not. It would require having a webmaster from our Church who could make changes for the installments on a more frequent basis than what takes place during the time we are paying for all time spent on the site. If we serialize the old episodes, they might be changed every week so that those with internet access could always catch up on the entire history.

In just two years Andrius and *The Unicorn* will be observing their silver anniversary. The thought is exciting and yet it also points out the need for our premier publication to have others in the Church capable of carrying it on to its golden anniversary.

Rev. Paul, editor

The Littlest Unicorn

In the Autumn of 1998 Teri Johnson and I took over TLU. She as editor and myself as assistant. We passed the publishing of it back and forth every other issue and I took on the administrative work as well. We shared in the writing and created regular features such as the Gods & Goddesses, Crafty column, calendar, and of course Rev. Paul's Deva stories. We were also blessed with the regular wonderful animal stories

from Dancing Fox. We had a lot more original artwork this year too both from subscribers and church members. Lizard introduced a Pagan parenting column and Stacey Furtado sent us some wonderful activity pages. All in all a great year for TLU as far as content and contributions. The only thing I hope for in the coming year is more participation from the children and the parents. We have had little response to questions, the parenting page and in our contests, advertised in the last issues, we have had no response at all.

We have happily grown in membership this year! In autumn last year we started with 11 paying subscribes and 2 exchanges. We lost 4 right off the bat and just one more left the remaining year. We picked up 10 new members so we are up to 16! We exchange with 1. I have also been sending complimentary issues to church members who send in contributions.

Teri decided not to continue on as editor this year so I have stepped into her shoes. I have asked Stacey Furtado to be assistant editor and she will be creating a lot more activities and coloring pages as well as creating a new front piece, more child friendly, to grace the front page. I will be producing it wholly however, as it is too stressful, costly and hard to pass it back and forth.

In the new year I have plans for new articles and regular features; tarot for children, astrology, learning about the magick of trees, simple ritual work and spells for children as well as the continuation of Rev. Paul Deva stories, Dancing Fox's stories and more activities, crafts and book reviews. I want to keep it fresh, fun and educational!

I'd also like to make a special note of thanks to Lizard who just now sent me an electric typewriter in the mail. Mine had broken down and the one I borrowed broke down leaving me in a lurch right before deadline and resulting in my having to hand write the issue. Thank you so much for your generosity and support Lizard! You are truly a blessing to the church!

I truly love being involved in TLU and look forward to the coming year. Thank yo to all who contributed this past year and thank you to Rev. Paul and gerry for their love and support!

Bright Blessings, Noël Knower, Editor

The Mystery School

At the beginning of the year we accepted a new Novice Supplicant, goldenwing, who has since been Dedicated as a Novice. GentleWolf and Seeker were also Dedicated and are now working as Novices. This past summer we accepted three new Novice Supplicants, Coyote, River and Morning Windsong and as we near Hallows, the final new student of the year, Cerddorion, has been accepted for study.

As we turn the Wheel we look forward with growing excitement to the First Initiation of the Novice Lilith who has demonstrated growth in her involvement in our Tradition, skills at manifesting the values and wisdom of Lothloriën and

has become part of the foundation of our Church.

The Mystery School is a little larger than it was a year ago with about as many students as I can easily manage as the lone Mentor. It was with regret that I saw Rev. Ron go on Sabbatical. The pared-down College of Mentors offers prayers every day that he will again be functional within Lothloriën, which loves him dearly. Rev. Ron's leave followed Thomas Berkham having taken leave the year before having found that working with students by correspondence was not as fulfilling as the new group of students coming to him directly in Atlanta. The advantages for the students are that *all* students may learn The Tradition of Lothloriën directly from its creative medium.

The Mystery School has been learning new skills in recent years to assist students who have special needs through issues of health and wellness. We also are working with students who return to college, for working toward a college degree, being employed, and still having a home, a life and a partner do not require taking leave from The Mystery School.

Mystery School Budgets

income:

balance from last year	\$303.48
Member donations	3.00
tuition percentage	1259.15
misc. donations	23.00
sales of MS publications	508.27
grant from Sub. Library	150.00
total	\$2,246.90

The Mystery School realized \$508.27 from its publishing program, through the sale of spiral bound rituals and books. This figure does not include the expenses of binding materials, printing and shipping, which are included below.

Total income from the publishing program (including sample packets and the old edition of The Holy Books of the Devas) came to a total of \$2,191.56. Incidentally, the publishing program also raised \$104.00 which was donated to the Lane Fund. From the total sale of books and materials, the authors and artists of said rituals and books received a total of \$252.69 in royalties. The expenses:

postage	\$317.06
web site	75.00
Minnesota agent	40.00
printing	261.70
office expenses	208.57
library book purchases	221.48
ritual materials	55.90
miscellaneous	18.25
computer maintenance	218.28
telephone	326.29
misc. equipment repair	60.00
storage locker rent	122.00
portable toilet expense	153.26
total	\$2,077.79

The Mystery School, other activities

Tuition

total tuition paid	2,817.00
percentage given to land fund	144.35
percentage given to Subscription Library	\$691.75
percentage allocated toward Rev. Paul's expenses	\$721.75
balance toward Mystery School budget	\$1,259.15

The Annual Retreat

The Annual Retreat is managed by The Mystery School in cooperation with the Board of Directors and volunteer Members. This year's gathering, centered primarily in Kirkland with other Members participating in their homes and local regions, was quieter than other years. Lizard came up from Southern California and our local attendance was strong. The focus was on two workshops which helped participants in learning how to Draw Down the Moon, Invoke the Goddess and also invoke Unicorns as we do within The Ritual of Lothloriën.

Less than a year remains before we gather in Yellowstone. It will be a challenge for our Members to complete their travel arrangements, schedule time off work and make the journey. If we could have our wishes come true, each of you would be able to attend!

The Land Fund

The Land Fund is, according to our by-laws (*The Book of Legislation*), under the auspices of The Mystery School. A change in the way we handle money set aside for the Church's Land Fund was enacted by the Board of Directors. In recent years, the money being saved was kept in a money market account, accessible but providing low interest. This money was converted to two Certificates of Deposit, doubling the projected annual interest. The Church now has two CD's, [\$1,450.00 and \$1,051.67]. As money for the Land Fund continues to accumulate, it will be held in the basic checking account until it reaches an amount worth converting to a CD. The Land Fund was originally established when the Church was centered in Minneapolis toward the goal of some day acquiring a parcel of land in the Mothervalley region, suitable for our Annual Retreat. Although the main activities of the Church now take place at The Hermit's Grove, we have not set aside our goal of some day acquiring a small, magical preserve near our most sacred river.

Total income for the Land Fund in this fiscal year

Member donations	\$22.39
old Holy Book purchases	28.00
Mystery School tuition	144.35
sample packet percentage	5.50
Merry Meet notepaper percentage	6.00
percentage from books and rituals	77.00
earned interest	58.09
misc.	8.66
total	\$349.99

The Subscription Library

The libraries are part of The Mystery School, made available to Members by subscription. In reviewing library growth I had thought that we might have added between one and two hundred volumes, but that view comes from putting in cards and pockets, updating the computerized records and doing other work with them. An inventory was taken from the records and it shows that, since the last catalog was published (November, 1996) the library has actually grown by 342 volumes, which included the deletion of perhaps two dozen titles donated to the Prisoner Outreach Book Program.

The library sections with the most growth during this time were the "Herbals" section (48 new books), "Wicca, Neopaganism and Witchcraft" (62 new books), Western Occult and Magickal Traditions (40 new books), "Health & Wellness" (17 new books). Most of the books in *Health and Wellness* and in the *Herbals* sections were purchased and donated by The Hermit's Grove, including a number of expensive titles printed in Europe. Most other new library books come from two sources: purchases made by the donation of 25% of all tuition by The Mystery School and books donated by *The Unicorn* which it receives direct from publishers and reviews.

Our assistant librarian, Alder, has made great progress in the creation of a card catalog which will enable us to find a book by author or by title. (The computerized system has a separate file for each category.)

How many books do we have? As of 30 ix 1999 ce, we had 2640 books, a number which has grown already since that date. As we move into the new year, a major purchase is being made of nearly \$2,000 in herbal texts, some of which (like the *British Pharmacopoeia*) range in price to several hundred dollars. Because the library is used extensively for herbal studies, this purchase and all herbal and health books which are purchased are done so with monies through The Hermit's Grove. This purchase is being made possible through the very kind generosity of an anonymous donor.

We all extend our blessings and thanks.

Rev. Paul, librarian

Subscription Library financial report

income	
balance from last year	\$94.48
Member donations	59.60
money from MS tuition	691.75
nonmember donations	78.80
sales of Rev. Paul's books	542.26
library catalog purchases	7.50
sales of books by Hermit's Grove	593.02
money from sample packets	8.45
total	\$2075.86
expense	
postage	\$144.05
web site & computer	67.00
book purchases	1,211.23
office expenses	156.45

educational materials	49.80
subscriptions	28.00
telephone	64.72
storage locker rent	35.00
donation to MS budget	150.00
total	1,906.25
balance	\$169.61

Periodical Library Annual Report

Since its very first year, *The Unicorn* has maintained an active program of exchange with numerous other publications. Today, copies of *The Unicorn* are printed and sent to a number of publications, each of which sends their issues in return. In addition, subscriptions are purchased with *The Green Egg* and one or two other publications unwilling to exchange subscriptions. We believe that, despite its fragile nature, the Periodical Library is a most valuable resource. It is our belief and hope that some day the Church might have the resources (money, time, volunteer help and technology) to convert these materials to microfilm, CD-Rom or some other medium so that all Members could study the history of the modern pagan movement through its publications.

Rev. Paul, librarian

There is very little to report on the Periodical Library because it is maintained in storage due to its potential fragile condition and the irreplaceability of much that we have. This past year the library was put on shelves to get it more condensed. This coming year will probably see it unshelved and moved to floor level as my shelves are beginning to sag in the middle. Change really is a constant in our lives!

Tricia Youngquist, librarian

income

percentage from Member donations	\$155.46
percentage from sample packets	16.50
balance from last year	82.06
total	\$254.02

expense

postage	\$56.34
printing	71.50
paid subscriptions	16.00
computer expense	13.57
total	157.41
balance toward next year	\$96.61

Tape Library Annual Report

I have held the position of Tape Librarian for several years. During that time the number of tapes has grown either through donations or additions of Sunday Circle tapes or New Moon tapes. During this past year, the Tape Library has undergone reorganization which has been a great help to me. I am now able to locate existing tapes and add new ones much more efficiently.

The only downside to this position is that I have access to any tape at almost any time. That means that the Tape Library

is not being used to best advantage. I find this terribly unfortunate as our Tape Library is an excellent source of information. We do, however, now have new "faces" borrowing tapes. Hopefully this trend will continue. This year should also see new guidelines for Tape Library use.

Tricia Youngquist

Member donations	\$20.76
postage expenses	20.76
balance	.00

The Galadhrim

As the "Head-Horn" of the Galadhrim Society of Unicorns, it has been my honor and duty to communicate with the other Unicorns to let them know how we are all doing and to remind them of their commitment to communicate with each other. Currently, there are nine Unicorns offering services of many types to the Church Members and each other. One candidate is currently waiting for Induction, having completed her three-month work period, so soon, we will have 10 Unicorns in our stable.

This year, instead of this Unicorn doing all the talking, each Unicorn has submitted a brief statement about their service for the past twelve months. Please enjoy reading these statements and send your support to each of these great Unicorns. *felaróf*

Lay-Ministry Program

During the past year, we have been pleased to add a new Lay-minister to our group. Cat McCabe (WA) has done the reading, research and investigation, has put in much time and effort, and has passed the adjudication to be certified as a representative of The Rowan Tree Church. She joins with Tricia Youngquist (IL), Jim Saigle (Ontario), Frank Cordeiro (CA) and gerry Beyerl (WA) in serving as people that Members can contact if they have questions regarding Sunday Circles, why certain things in rituals are done certain ways, and what The Rowan Tree Church holds as beliefs.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Lay-minister program, please write to gerry Beyerl at the Church's Kirkland office for more information.

Blessings, gerry Beyerl, Lay-Ministry Coordinator

What I do for my Unicorn brothers and sisters... I send out the COL lists monthly and any other announcements when asked. I also try, when not harried, to write a note to everyone each month. For the community, I do a small Child of Light ritual nightly. I feel the need is there. *Amalthea*

The Periodical Library remains in storage. Due to its fragile nature, it is not practically available for access at this time. There are between 15 and 20 boxes of past issues of Pagan periodical publications. Some of these are not no longer published. It is a sad state of affairs that this material is inaccessible.

My responsibility with the Tape Library is basically the storage of tapes, copying Church produced tapes as requested by Members, and mailing out those tapes as appropriate. As tape Librarian, I have reviewed all of the tapes in the Tape

Library and, while I can't tell you everything from memory, I can usually find something appropriate to the Member's needs. Not only is there much information on the Rowan Tree and The Tradition of Lothloriën, but also information on Wicca in general. There are also tapes for entertainment, including music and even a couple of comedy tapes. *Valerian*

My activities during this year have involved Healing Magick. I have participated with the Herd in the Monthly Child of Light Rituals at the first quarter of the Moon. I have communicated with other Members of the Herd. I have participated by leading and assisting in organizing fund-raising activities. I look forward to supporting the manifestation of our Church during the coming year. *Keerdan*

Since last fall, I've been working on an author and title card catalog for the Church's Subscription Library. I achieved great progress during the fall and winter months when gardening at the Hermit's Grove slowed for the season. With the coming of gardening season this spring and summer, I have worked less on the catalog, but have incorporated my time spent in the gardens, as a Master Herbalist student, with my Galadhrim service time.

I also recently made a flyer for the Church's t-shirt sale on my computer at home. I have sent quarterly letters to my fellow unicorns for the duration of my time in the Galadhrim Society. I look forward to upcoming projects, strengthening my awareness of the Church's needs and how I may be of service to help achieve them. *Undomiel*

I want to tell you a little something about what I do for the Galadhrim. I travel and gather rocks and stones. I clean and tumble and polish these different stones and crystals. This process takes about 6 to 8 weeks per batch. When they are done, they are placed in a circle and blessed. All of the stones have different properties, but all are good for the soul. Many of the polished stones are sent to other Unicorns, but many are also put out at Sunday Circles at the Grove for people to take as they need or want them. I don't always know what stones would be most appropriate for each person, but any request for a stone for energy, healing, blessing, opening of Love, etc. will always be acknowledged. Please be a bit patient with me as my stones take many steps of lifting and changing the tumbling drums, and my back does not always feel great. But I will get your stones to you.

Blessings to you all and may peace and quiet fill your hearts. *Gwathlo*

Prisoner Outreach Program

I am pleased with the growth we have experienced in the previous year. A majority of the POP Members have received donated books and increased correspondence. In addition, we've been able to screen new applicants to ensure that Lothloriën is what they are looking for. Our goal is to offer educational materials to those whose ideals are aligned with our Tradition. At this time, Lizard and I are making changes in our personal lives which will allow us to serve our POP Members more fully. We are hopeful that a revised program will be in place in the near future. I'd like to thank all Church Members who have offered books, money, and their correspondence to these men. We appreciate your continued support. *Blessed Be, Aragorn*

**Lothloriën's
Calendar & Wheel of the Year**



for
The Rowan Tree Church

1999 - 2000 ce

November

1 November 1999 ce
The beginning of our religious year

7 November 1999 ce
New Basil Moon
actual: 7:53 pm PST - 15° Gemini 17'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

22 November 1999 ce
Full Elfwort Moon
actual: 11:04 pm PST: 0° Gemini 32'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

December

7 December 1999 ce
New Sage Moon
actual: 5:32 pm EST: 15° Sagittarius 22'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

21 December 1999 ce
Yule Eve & Full Hyssop Moon
Sun enters Capricorn: 12:44 am MST, 21 xii 99
actual: 9:41 am PST on the 22nd - 0° Cancer 25'
Our Sabbat ritual, "How the Little Unicorn Saw
the Birth of the Sun Child" or
"A Yule Journey" with The Ritual of Lothloriën

January

6 January 2000 ce
New Comfrey Moon
actual New Moon at 1:14 pm EST - 15° Capricorn 44'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

20 January 2000 ce
Full Angelica Moon
actual Full Moon 10:40 pm CST - 0° Leo 26'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

February

1 February 2000 ce
Candlemas Eve
"A Candlemas Journey"
with The Ritual of Lothloriën

5 February 2000 ce
New Star Anise Moon
actual: 6:03 am MST - 16° Aquarius 02'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

18 February 2000 ce
Full Virgo Moon
actual: 8:27 am the 19th - 0° Pisces 20'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

March

6 March 2000 ce
New Willow Moon
actual: 12:17 am EST: 0° Pisces 56'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

19 March 2000 ce
Eostara Eve & Full Lavender Moon
Sun enters Aries: 1:35 am CST
Full Moon at 9:44 pm MST - 29° Virgo 53'
Eostara Journey of Lothloriën

April

4 April 2000 ce
New Blessed Thistle Moon
actual: 2:12 p.m. EDT
The Ritual of Lothloriën

17 April 2000 ce
Full Verbena Moon
actual: 10:41 am PDT on the 18th - 28° Libra 59'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

30 April 2000 ce
Beltane Eve
The Beltane Journey of Lothloriën

May

4 May 2000 ce
New Lovage Moon
actual: 12:12 am EDT - 14° Taurus 00'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

17 May 2000 ce
Full Scorpio Moon
actual: 1:34 am MDT - 27° Scorpio 40'
Full Basil Moon worked solitary with
The Ritual of Lothloriën;
The Tarot Ritual of Lothloriën
worked within The Mystery School

June

2 June 2000 ce
New Elfwort Moon
actual: 7:14 am CDT - 12° Gemini 15'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

15 or 16 June 2000 ce
Full Sage Moon
For many, the 15th on the Eve
In CDT and EDT, possibly the 16th at the exact time
actual: 5:27 pm CDT - 26° Sagittarius 03'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

19 June 2000 ce
Midsummer's Eve
"The Deva Ritual of Lothloriën"
or the Midsummer Journey of Lothloriën
Sun enters Cancer: 6:48 pm PDT
Those on the east coast may prefer to work the 20th

July

1 July 2000 ce
New Hyssop Moon
actual: 2:20 pm CDT - 10° Cancer 14'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

15 July 2000 ce
Full Comfrey Moon
actual: 6:55 am PDT - 24° Capricorn 19'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

27 July 2000 ce
Opening of the Annual Retreat
Yellowstone National Park
Old Faithful Lodge Cabins
meet with the Beyerls 1:00 pm MDT

28 July 2000 ce
Annual Retreat at Yellowstone
The Ritual of Lothloriën - 7:00 pm MDT

29 July 2000 ce
Annual Retreat at Yellowstone

30 July 2000 ce
Annual Retreat at Yellowstone
9:00 am MDT: Sunday Circle
New Angelica Moon & Eclipse
actual: 8:25 pm MDT - 8° Leo 12'
The Ritual of Lothloriën
collective ritual working

31 July 2000 ce
Annual Retreat at Yellowstone
Lammas Eve
Lammas Journey of Lothloriën
or "The Lammas Ritual"

August

1 August
Annual Retreat at Yellowstone

2 August
Annual Retreat Closing

14 August 2000 ce
Full Star Anise Moon
actual: 11:13 pm MDT - 22° Aquarius 41'
The Ritual of Lothloriën
"Reading of the Names"

29 August 2000 ce
New Lavender Moon
actual: 6:19 am EDT - 6° Virgo 23'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

September

12 September 2000 ce
Full Willow Moon
actual: 12:37 pm PDT the 13th - 21° Pisces 18'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

27 September 2000 ce
New Verbena Moon
actual: 1:53 pm MDT - 5° Libra 00'
The Ritual of Lothloriën

October

12 October 2000 ce
Full Blessed Thistle Moon
 actual: 3:53 am CDT the 13th - 20° Aries 19'
 The Ritual of Lothloriën

27 October 2000 ce
New Basil Moon
 actual: 5:58 am EDT - 4° Scorpio 12'
 The Ritual of Lothloriën

31 October 2000 ce
Hallows Eve
 "The Hallows Ritual of Lothloriën" or
 The Hallows Journey 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.

Dates to Remember

Noel Knower	birthday	5 November
Randy Kellar	birthday	8 November
First Hermit's Grove	Sunday Circle	6 Nov. 1994
Isaiah Dearborne	birthday	14 December
Carlos Castenada	birthday	25 Dec. 1931
J. R. R. Tolkien	birthday	3 Jan. 1892
Kahlil Gibran	birthday	5 January
Judith Karliss	birthday	11 January
Gloria Torell	birthday	11 January

final IRS ruling: RT is tax exempt	19 Jan. 1995
Lewis Carroll	birthday 27 Jan. 1832
Anahata Katkin	birthday 1 February
first Ritual of Dedication conducted	2 February
Ortolano's First Degree Initiation	7 Feb. 1997
Legal Incorporation - Minnesota	4 Feb. 1980
Sybil Leek	birthday 22 Feb. 1922
Rev. Paul's First Degree Initiation	23 Feb. 1977
Verger's First Degree Initiation	13 March 1997
Edgar Cayce	birthday 18 March
Rev. Paul's Ordination	20 March 1980
Joseph Campbell	birthday 26 March
Elinor Gum	birthday 26 March
Linda Van Dyck	birthday 2 April
Cris Bear	birthday 3 April
Michelle Sklar	birthday 9 April
Chris Hulka	birthday 10 April
Donna Lewin	birthday 14 April
Rev. Paul & gerry's Handfasting	17 April 1993
Rev. Ron Weroski	birthday 30 April
Salvador Dali	birthday 11 May 1904
Hermit's Grove incorporated	20 May 1994
houseblessing: House on Stevens	29 May 1980
tony Miranda	birthday 5 June
Jennifer Kern	birthday 16 June
First Sunday Circle	24 June 1979
First filing for RT's 501(c)(3)	25 June 1990
Denise Francis	birthday 6 July
Cat McCabe	birthday 10 July
Moved into the Blaisdell House	15 July 1984
Aldous Huxley	birthday 26 July 1894
Kurt Wellman	birthday 28 July
Rev. Ron's Ordination	29 July 1995
Ladyhawk's First Degree Initiation	2 Aug. 1996
The Rowan Tree given its name	15 Aug. 1979
Lizard Frank	birthday 25 August
Rev. Ron's First Degree Initiation	29 Aug. 1992
gerald Beyerl	birthday 1 September
Rev. Paul Beyerl	birthday 2 September
Alder Burgess	birthday 2 September
Rev. Paul's 2nd Degree Initiation	5 Sept. 1979
Jim Saigle	birthday 10 September
Dianne Lorden	birthday 19 September
Jack Reynolds	birthday 19 September
Moved to First Avenue Apartment	22 Sept. 1981
Stacey Furtado	birthday 27 September
Tricia Youngquist	birthday 19 October
Allison Moore	birthday 22 October
Timothy Sanderson	birthday 25 October

We could only include those Members whose birth dates we have in our records. We do not wish to exclude any one. Included are important dates in Church history, the birth dates of historical figures, important volunteers in our Church and the Members we have on file. Remember these in your daily blessings as you turn the Wheel of the Year... If you are not listed, go ahead, send us your birth information!