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Rowan Tree Church

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The ROWAN TREE •

po box 8814, mpls., mn., 55408

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Blessed Greetings!



Wow! First impression of If you didn't make it this coming ones. The Group is) incredible! Hopefully, in some reflections of their weekend. Those who were there: Paul, Alex, Alice, Roseanna, Phil, Don, David, Ed, Claire, Alice's daughters, Mellisa, Meshell, & Amanada, on Saturday, we were joined by Margie, on Sunday, Jude popped in, oh, I was there, too. We were in White-water State Park, in Southern Minnesota, in a primitive campsite. All who were there want to be in the same space next year. We had a wonderful secluded spot for an outdoor Temple. An Altar was erected, and loving people spanned the circumference of the Circle. Saturday evening we all performed the Ritual of Lothloriën (our favorite!). Don & Claire were the lively East, Alice & Ed were the willful South, David & Roseanna were the moving West, Alex & Phil the strong North, Paul was Priest, Mahr was Priestess, and Margie inspired us thru the Charge of Lothloriën. EVERYONE was truly moved & moving throughout the Ritual. Personally, for me, incredibly inspiring. My, aren't we all Blessed! On Sunday morning, alex performed the Ritual of Lothloriën as one of his requirements for 2nd Ordeal. He passed with incredible gentle beauty and strength. Congrats! Also during our wonderful time together, besides getting to know the out-of-towners and them getting to know us, there was lots of food sharing, love sharing, giggles, hugs & joy. The area surrounding the area was truly awesome. A hike to Chimney Rock a must. Special THANKS to our friend & Mentor, Paul for finding this spot, putting up the \$ to reserve it, the hassles of trying to get us semi-organized so this special time could happen for the Rowan Tree. Aren't we lucky?! You betcha! Sparklers, too!

During the weekend, Don passed out the results of "A FORM". Truly delightful. He put in a lot of work retyping all the responses. Thanks Don! I happened to notice a few folk missing... when are we going to hear from you? Real soon, hopefully. Also, Don passed out the 2nd issue of the Littlest Unicorn. Say, did you know that the little fellow doesn't have a name yet? There's even a cash (\$\$\$) prize for the discovery of the right name!

On Lammass Eve day, the Ritual of Lothloriën was performed by all in attendance: Alice, Don, David, Larry, Clair, Jude, Paul, & Mahr. There was a sleeping Goddess in the center of the Circle, and all lovingly invoked her. Again, a truly incredibly moving Ritual. On Lammass Eve, many gathered (Alice & girls, Claire, Ed & friend Emmett, Paul, Don, Larry, David, Margie, old R.T. friends, Artemis, Lucy & Theodore) by the river at Crosby Park. Besides the wonderful time shared, the chanting and good food, there was the amazing sites upon the sandy shores of the Mississippi River. There were some sand knomes who had left gifts of their handywork in the form of some awesome sand castles. Boy is that an understatement! Not often one sees a sand pyramid, or a castle with flags blowing in the breeze, or a structure with inland moats! Personally speaking, my trip home was phenomenal! I'm inspired by the incredibleness of our group. Yes, with all of us nurturing Lothloriën, She will live forever. Blessed Be!

Other news & input:

From Alice: She attended Paul's Magickal Herbal Week, and she writes:
1st Day: We got to describe an herb, and the rest had to guess which herb it was. She guessed 2 out of 5, and felt pleased for a beginner.
2nd Day: We made powdered incense from scratch, pinch by pinch.
3rd Day: We made Amulets from scratch as well, consecrated each piece.
4th Day: We planned a generic ritual for letting go of a person, place or habit. Folks there: Larry, David, Alice, Paul, and two other ladies named Fran and Susanne.
5th Day: Further preparations for the Ritual, consisting of making an oil, infusion, cakes, aspergers, and a wand. Everyone's hands & feet were washed by others, and anything else that needed to be cleansed. We anointed each other with the oil we made. Susanne was the East, David the South, Fran the West, Larry the God/dess, Alice the North. The Ritual was performed in the back yard with candles, ritual cakes, & alot of love. Alice learned a couple of new chants. "To say the least, we all grew from the Week Seminar." B.B. Alice

I'd also like to share from a letter from Norman (parts of it was in the last Newsletter) upon checking with our prior Editor, it was suggested I share it for all. It truly moved me, thus why I shared it with our Mentor. "... it was nice that you reached out to me. As you are aware, I have just been involved with the Rowan Tree since January although I have been an active member of a Druidic sect for many years. You must look at all new novices, novice supplicants or any of the numerous other names you call us with an eye that we are all children who do not know. Not that we can't learn but that we must learn the vocabulary you use as well as the experiences we perceive. I look at things differently than you who have been involved for X years. I also understand the pain of growth and loss, but take care of us babies, we need your love and nuturing rather than the adulthood that is thrust on us. It is funny that once we decide we are something, then we must rush destiny and get it all done in two weeks. Think of it this way, it takes more than one lifetime to gain any awareness. Obviously the more we do the thing, then the faster we wake up and hit the decks running." I personally was touched by the phrase, 'take care of us babies...' I had forgotten was it was like to be new to the Rowan Tree. Thanks Norman, it is something we all should think about, to make sure all feel welcome and comfortable. Bless your insight.

Oh, further input from the R.T. Weekend: Claire Simonson agreed to continue to address the Unicorn. Bless you Claire! (I have done it for almost 2 years, and with this Newsletter, she understood why I might seek help.) THANKS!!! Also, it was really great to meet and get to know Phil from Texas and Roseanna from Kansas. Some folks had yet to meet lots of others. In no time at all we were 'family'. Discussions produced some further insight into the Pentacle Proposals. It seems that the figure of \$8.00/month is far too low. A more realistic current figure is \$10.00. Counting inflation, the proposal minimum should be \$13.00. Also, rather than excusing 1 or 2 people from paying, that a scholarship-type thing be worked up, with a barter concept. Example... to be able to pay only a monthly of \$5, or \$8, or \$10, that work for the Rowan Tree be in exchange, like drawings for the Unicorn, or pictures for this Newsletter, or sewing & making of amulets to sell in the Herb Shop, etc. The ideas to be the responsibility of the person seeking the 'grant'.

I received an incredible letter from Alex, and I'd like to share part. "...Kahlil Gibran wrote a book called 'The Prophet'. I have taken and excerpted from it and paraphrased it for a different meaning, which in essence it is the same..." 'Then said the priestess, Speak to us of the Goddess. And he raised his head and looked upon the people, and there fell a stillness upon them. And with a great voice he said...

When the Goddess beckons to you, follow Her, though Her ways are hard steep. And when Her wings enfold you yield to Her, though the sword hidden among Her pinions may wound you. And when She speaks to you, believe in Her, though Her voice may shatter your dreams as the north wind lays waste the garden. For even as the Goddess crowns you, so shall She crucify you. Even as she is for your growth so she is for your pruning. Even as She ascends to your height and caresses your tenderest branches that quiver in the sun, so shall She descend to roots and shake them in their clinging to the earth...'

Quite moving...

ADDRESS CHANGES: Larry Anderson will not be moving at present, his old address still stands: 1419-1st Ave. So. Apt. C, Mpls., MN 55403

Mahr Maag has a new Florida address & roommate: 2320 Williams Court, Fort Myers, Fl 33901 - if you want the phone #, call directory assistance and ask for Michael Alderman- we are moving this week, so direct your mail there. This is a result of all the magick raised during my trip home. Michael is a Blessed tool & gift to me for incorporating changes. Besides, he's an Aquarius like me, and can keep up with all my Air! Blessed Be!

From John Bradley:

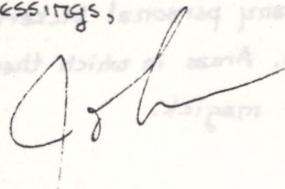
Hi Sweetie!

Here are some long overdue comments on the Tarot Ritual; do with them what ye will. Since I was not yet a member at the time of the ritual I could not formally participate. However, I still wanted to give some comments. Sorry that it has taken me this long.

I feel that I should make some statement about the financial issues involving R.T., although I'm not sure what to say. All of the comments and proposals that have come out thus far have validity. I only wish to say something about the attitude in which some of these propositions were presented, i.e., instead of perfect love and perfect trust they seemed to be made in "perfect irritation." It is true that firm measures need to be taken to resolve these money matters, but this group discipline must be manifested in love—As above so below.

To be fare, I must say that there were ideas presented that contained a beautiful spirit within them. Although I don't feel these particular ideas to be resolutions within themselves, I feel that they could work in conjunction with other proposals.

Many Blessings,



Tarot Ritual

Card #1: The Hanged Man (Reversed)

Preoccupation with the ego. The graphic symbolism of this card reversed shows a spiritual triangle formed out of the arms and head (with the head being the apex) balanced in an upright position upon a material cross. This would suggest the placement of our spiritual being, the Group Mind, above the material world even though this will be seen as egotistical by the outside pagan communities. We must stay constantly aware of the state of this card as it will attempt to become upright — materiality actively seeking to suppress our spiritual self.

This card also often represents lack of sacrifice. It is clear that we must not sacrifice ourselves to the outside world.

Card #2: Judgement (Reversed)

Delay, suspension, procrastination. We, as a group, must overcome our lethargy and make an active effort to turn this card upright. The stone circle will not erect itself, we must erect it and our time of procrastination must end. It is evident that we do not have the resources to bring this into being at this time, but it is also clear that we must continue to make plans to work toward this goal.

During the period of time just prior to my acceptance into the Rowan Tree I experienced a number of intensive psychic events. It was my privilege during one of these episodes to "see" the complete execution of the Stone Circle. At the time I thought that I was viewing Stone Henge but was dissuaded by two things. First, that it seemed to have its own separate time, in some ways separate from time. Second, it was placed on a small hill that overlooked a body of water (I could not tell how large the body of water was). Now that I think of it, it was also much smaller, no more than fifty or sixty feet across.

Many of us will not be there, but many of us will be. This is something we must work for.

Card #3: Three of Wands

This is a positive card reflecting the business acumen and enterprise of the Rowan Tree publications. The publications are doing well and the future also looks promising.

Card #4: Ten of Wands (Reversed)

It is obvious that some measure needs to be taken to strengthen our sense of family and set aside any personal bickerings, disagreements or lack of trust in order become a single mind. Areas in which there is unrest should be solved quickly so we can proceed to greater magick.

Card #5 Five of Pentacles (reversed).

This card acts as a warning to our interpersonal relationships outside of the Rowan Tree.

There will sometimes be obstacles before us, but we must put the Rowan Tree first.

There is another aspect of this card, as it deals with separation and divorce. This corresponds to the preceding card and our sense of family. Everyone that is with us now will not always be with us. We must make these breaks as clean, loving and joyful as possible.

Card #6 The Chariot (reversed)

The Chariot, reversed, shows an instability of an internal nature on the material plane.

This is to be expected with the transitions the herb shop has undergone. We must all be aware of and considerate of these changes, utilize this resource and aid in stabilizing it.

Card #7 Five of Swords .

It is again pointed out that relationships inside and outside of Rowan Tree will be turbulent.

If we adhere to our highest ideals and principles we can deal with these problems effectively.

Card #8 King of Wands (reversed)

For the survival of the Rowan Tree into future generations our foundation must be severe and deliberate, yet with this must come understanding. There needs to be an effort to make the principles of Lothlorien clear, but unyielding.

Card #9 The World (reversed)

I feel that the biggest problem with the library is stagnation. It is one of our most valuable possessions and we should use it.

Card #10 Nine of Cups

I really have nothing to say about this card, but it is very reassuring since we all hope to teach someday. Let's hope that we can keep this positive for the future.

Card #11 The Lovers (reversed)

This card tells us that we must be careful with the choices we make in dealing with the outside world; choices between "the sacred and profane." We must remember the sacred aspects of this path and adhere to the secrecy of them lest we profane the Rowan Tree.

Card #12 Six of Wands (reversed)

There are two things in particular that I believe are associated with this card—delay and disloyalty. If we are procrastinating against the ideals of this path we have failed to be loyal to it.

Card #13 King of Swords

The time has come for severity in judgement as indicated in the eighth position. We must be deliberate and analytical while still maintaining justice and balance within our judgements. This is a card of superiority, and that is what our Craft should be.

Card #14 Ten of Swords

There are aspects of the past that are painful and injurious to many members. These need to be let go of so we can move into the future. It is impossible to move into the future when we are holding onto the past.

Card #15 The Moon (reversed)

We must look past deceptive clouds that may block our vision of the future. "Keep pure your highest ideals. . ." THANKS JOHN!

From Margie:

Enclosed is a copy of Ed Rom's letter to me after his dedication Wed. 7/24/85. This is a wonderful letter & I asked him if it was ok with him to share his letter with the rest of the Rowan people & he said yes it's ok.

I have some news about the Covenant of the Goddess local council meetings.

The Rowan Tree will be performing the Ritual of Lothlorien for the local C.O.G. members on Sunday Sept. 15, 1985, at 7:00 pm at Paul's 4411 Blaisdell Ave. So..

The next C.O.G. meeting will be on Sun. Sept. 29, 1985, at 6:30 pm, at Margie's home 3321 2nd Ave. So. apt. #4 Mpls, 625-8319. ring the apartment #4 buzzer.

The last C.O.G. meeting was Sun. 7/21/85 at 7 pm at Kay & Roselind's home. Four Rowan Tree members were present, Margie, Alice, Paul & Don. I truly enjoyed the R.T.'s presence at the meeting.

From Prodea were Kay, Roselind, & Steve Posch. From the Temple of Sacred Waters were Gary Lingen & Stephanie. Antiga was present as a Member at-large.

Some C.O.G. discussed was the C.O.G. Grand Council occurring on Labor Day in Rowe, Massachusetts.

Concerning the money proposition, I feel that each member shall be asked to support their share of the monthly cost of the Rowan Tree support of at present \$ 10- to \$ 15- per month.

When a member is unable to pledge this support, that member is responsible to inform the Rowan Tree or their mentor, beforehand. Members may ask for assistance beforehand, which may or may not be given, depending on the circumstances.

Late pledges may be charged for what it costs the Rowan Tree for financing.

All members are responsible for financial support of the Rowan Tree & must remain in communication with the Rowan Tree.

Sincerely,
With Love & Trust & Blessings,

Rev. Margaret Ampe

Rev. Margaret Ampe

Hi, Margie!

I just felt the sudden impulse to write — I suppose it has to do with the fact that you are now my Mentor.

I feel different today than I did before. The fact of the ritual has an enormous bearing on things, this fact taking on a subjective reality before me, a reality which I have never before truly felt. I suppose this has to do with my Lutheran background; Lutheranism is a forbidding, austere faith, with none of the pomp and beauty of Catholicism (so many witches seem to come from papist backgrounds!). Lutheranism, I think, has much more in common with archaic Judaism than does Catholicism — much of the Catholic structure was originally designed to lure people away from the paganism of their forefathers, so Catholicism had to inevitably compromise with its Semitic origins in order to succeed in its spread through northern Europe.

Be that as it may; today I felt something that has been lacking in my life up to this point. I lost religion very early in my life, as soon as I decided that the church was more interested in telling me how to think than in my real spiritual development. I haven't been to church since I was confirmed; I didn't think I was missing anything by this, but I was. I just hadn't found the type of spirituality that suited me. Now I've got religion, in a really sort of conservative way. I want to go back to the good old days — of 30,000 years ago. Atlantis....

Seriously speaking, I like to be able to be humorous about my spirituality, and I feel that paganism is the only structure that allows me to be that way. To hell with Heaven and Hell!

I guess I can't get around, really, to what I'm trying to say, except that I have this wonderful feeling of being at peace with myself. And I'm not truly alone! That's so neat!

I'm really eager now to get on with the work of the First Ordeal! Things seem to be coming together in a good way — I couldn't have planned it better. I'm off the graveyard shift now, which should leave me a lot more energy to put into Rowan Tree work. 3:30-midnight, Tuesday through Saturday strikes me as being a lot more conducive to homework than does midnight-8:30, whatever days they give me.

I should be able to make it up to the Cities now for anything scheduled Sunday or Monday, a lot more easily than I could before. Getting off at midnight, I can sleep normal hours, and then go about a day's business without having to jack things around and lose time being tired in order to be able to do things with other people. I'm looking forward to taking part in more rituals, and to being with the other Rowan Tree folk in general. Somehow I feel as though I've come home after being away for a long long time.

And it was nice hugging all round like that. I'll be seeing you at the campsite Saturday!

*With Love and Trust
Blessed Be!*

Love,
☺ *ED* ☺

From Courtney Willis: a short note to say 'HI' and that he is still with us, and is busy starting anew life in a different area, and is partaking of many changes, internal and external. He also sends his love to everyone. -nice to hear from you Courtney!

From Diane Mills: She is in the process of erecting a stone circle out in a little grove of trees out in her East pasture. It will be 13 feet across, the stones will be Geodes, and the pentacle will be pebbles & gravel. She is attempting to get the area in shape to offer it for a Rowan Tree camp-out. NEAT! Thanks Diane! Who's ready to go?!

She also has some input about Group Dynamics:

"First, a word about what Group Dynamics is not: it is not a subsidiary of General Motors, it is not an organized school of thought, i.e. a philosophy, it is not a single technique or way of doing things, it is not a doctrinaire approach to social organization, advocating "groupthink" over individualism. Finally, it is not a "cure-all" for group problems.

Okay, then what is Group Dynamics & why should I/we be interested in it? One brief description will suffice here: Group Dynamics concerns something that is happening in all groups at all times, whether we know it or not. What that implies is that some of the things that happen are on an unconscious level, what isn't implied, but is still true, is that many things are on a non-verbal level.

Some of the things I'll be talking about will include: the dynamic interplay of relationships of the group to each other, the leader(s) & the outside world; characteristics of all groups & understanding individual and group behaviours. Because RT/Lothlorien is a group, anything we can learn about groups in general might be of benefit."

- to be continued -

Also, she has some ideas for Proposals:

1. At least one year moritorium on accepting any more new members.
2. That Members vote in \$20 per month over and above the regular \$7.50 pledge, for the purpose of defraying the costs out of hand of our Elder, and so that he can cut back on outside work & devote more time for RT & himself. (In otherwords, a 'salary' type of thing.) (This should be NON punitive, not everyone can do that much, but an attempt should be made, ie cut back on smoking & start those penny jars!)

Any feedback to Diane's ideas...?

Also, I had started this newsletter on Monday, it is now 7viii85 ce, (didn't have the \$ to get it printed or mailed) and while it all was in limbo for a couple of days, got a neat postcard of a Seattle Streetcar from Sheldon, and he writes....

"What a together Family to belong to! I'm excited about my adoption. There's lots of work for me ahead - but the goals/rewards are more than worth it..." Blessings, Sheldon.

Isn't it great to hear from him and all the rest of you!

BLESSED BE!

Oh! During the Camp-Out, it was discovered, that when sawing wood (or any other tedious chore), that if you chant the Witch's Rune while doing it, it goes faster and your energy is more utilized. AMAZING! It must be Magick!

" A closed mind is boring. It is always the same, leaving little or no room for understanding or growth." -Mahr

Have a Blessed Harvest Time!

P.S.

I understand the Herb Shop is in transition - who's gonna write it? tell us about it?

-Mahr