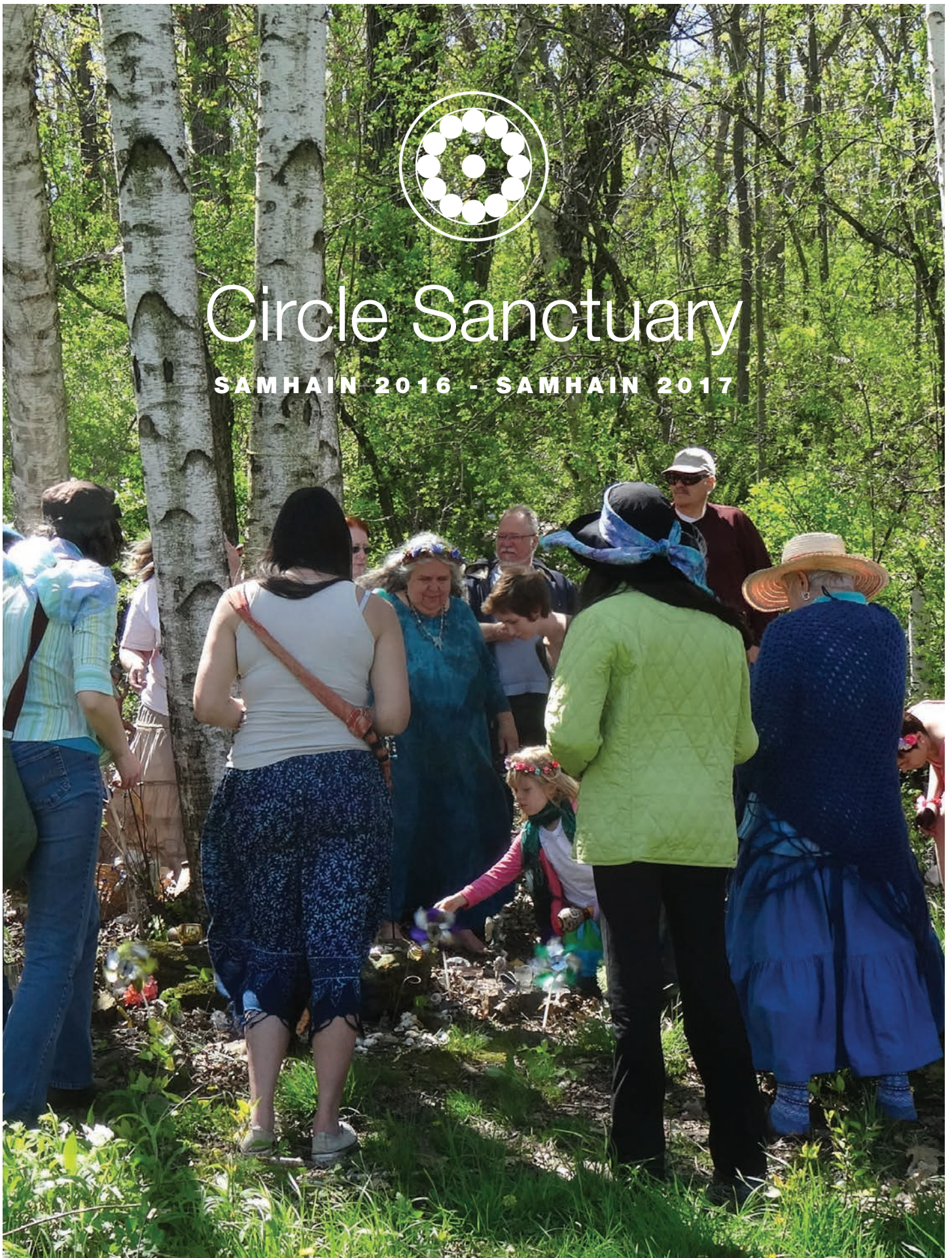




Circle Sanctuary

SAMHAIN 2016 - SAMHAIN 2017



A Letter from Selena Fox

Samhain is a powerful time for reflection on the past, assessment of the present, and visioning for the future. It is a time of release, transformation, and renewal.

For me and many others who are part of the Circle Sanctuary Community, Samhain is our spiritual new year. We give thanks for the last of the harvest as the growing season ends, we remember and honor beloved dead and ancestors, we do divination for the year to come, and we connect in community at our Annual Meeting and through this Annual Report.

Samhain has been a significant time for Circle, also known as Circle Sanctuary, since its beginning. Circle was born from a vision I had at Samhain 1974. It was incorporated in Wisconsin as a non-profit religious organization at Samhain time 1978 on October 27. Our land and headquarters, Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve, also came into being at Samhain in 1983. And, at Samhain 1985, Circle Sanctuary's Pagan religious freedom and civil rights network, Lady Liberty League was born.

Our Samhain Festival 2017 has Crossroads as its theme. Indeed, Circle Sanctuary itself is at a Crossroads. Our spiritual year of Samhain 2016 to Samhain 2017 has been transformational, and at times challenging, as we have gone through office restructuring and staffing changes as well as provided support to community members impacted by natural disasters in many places and by turbulent social and political dynamics in the nation and world. We also continue to work on recovery from an intense mid-July storm that cut off electricity for two days, plus uprooted and toppled trees across our main driveway, some of our field roads and trails, and other places on the land. I have sometimes called this a Year of Snake-Shedding-Skin.

Although there certainly has been a plethora of opportunities to problem solve in the past year, there also have been positive changes emerging during this time of transformations. We updated Circle Cemetery protocols and expanded our educational work on greening the end of life. We celebrated a variety of community life passages including births, marriages,

and our first transgender senioring ritual. The restructuring of Lady Liberty League in the past year has improved our ability to help those in need. Several facilities and grounds improvements on our land have occurred and are progressing. We launched Blessed Bees Apiary in the Spring and already have gone from two beehives to four. We have expanded our presence on social media and resumed publication of our Circle Sanctuary Calendar. Our various events have met with good

response and this year's Pagan Spirit Gathering was one of the best ever.

As we go into our 44th year this Samhain, may we deepen and cherish our connections with each other, with Circle Sanctuary and its ministries, with the Divine as One and as Many, and with the greater Circle of Nature of which we are all part.

Blessings,

Selena Fox

Rev. Selena Fox
Senior Minister & Executive Director
Circle Sanctuary
Samhain 2017

Cover image of the Fairy Shrine Blessing at Beltane by Bob Paxton, PSG group photo by Selena Fox.



The Pagan Spirit Gathering administration team, top, Dennis Carpenter, Sharon Stewart, Chip Brown, below, Bob Paxton and Selena Fox.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review

Membership

We are continuing to develop our new membership program, which was launched at Imbolc 2016. We are thankful for all our members who have renewed at various membership levels in the past year as well as the new members who have joined. In September 2017, our newest staff member, Gretchen Lirtzman became our new Membership Coordinator.

Office Restructuring & Staff Changes

The Circle Sanctuary office has undergone restructuring and staff changes in the past year. Florence Edwards Miller and Ashleigh Smiley who

previously comprised our office staff have transitioned to volunteer service. Florence has continued work with our membership newsletter, *Circle Sanctuary*

News as well as continues to do teaching, youth programming, and events support. Ashleigh has assisted with a variety of events, including coordinating Earth Day 2017.

In December 2016, Emily Brammerson joined our staff as Office Administrator. She served in this capacity until mid-September 2017 when she went on maternity leave. Gretchen Lirtzman was hired in July 2017 and began full time work at the beginning of August 2017. Gretchen has assumed Office Administrator responsibilities and also has begun assisting with social media, publications, events, and membership. In October 2017, Judith Quittner Seizys began part time work with Circle Sanctuary as graphic designer.

Rev. Bob Paxton continues as Operations Manager, Jenn Nelson as Festivals Manager and Rev. Sharon

Stewart as Festivals Advisor and Pagan Spirit Gathering Manager. Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Rev. Bob, and Rev. Joey Bunbury continue their work on Circle Sanctuary's Finances Committee. Chip Brown continues to serve as Circle Sanctuary's main legal advisor and church attorney. Selena Fox continues her work as Executive Director and Senior Minister.

Publications

Circle Sanctuary has produced several periodicals to serve its members and network. These include the in print newsletter for members, *Circle Sanctuary News* and this Annual Report. In addition, Circle Sanctuary published the monthly e-bulletin, *Circle Times*, and

the in-print program guide for Pagan Spirit Gathering. In October 2017, we resumed publication of the Circle Sanctuary Calendar, with the

help of Judith Quittner Seizys, Rev. Bob Paxton, Rev. Selena Fox, and others. In addition, just prior to Samhain 2017, Circle Sanctuary produced its first postcard.

Social Media & Website

Circle Sanctuary has pages and groups on Facebook as well as a presence on Twitter and Instagram. Our social media team has expanded in the past year and presently consists of Gretchen Lirtzman, Casey Pope, Bob Paxton, and Rev. Selena Fox, assisted by others. In May 2017, Casey added Pagan Spirit Gathering to Instagram. In September 2017, Gretchen reactivated Circle Sanctuary's Twitter account and added Circle Sanctuary to Instagram. Rev. Bob continues to manage and update Circle Sanctuary's website and in September 2017, Zephyr Brammerson began assisting him.



Earth Day 2017 photo by Bob Paxton

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

In 2017, Circle Sanctuary has begun experimenting with doing live streaming on Facebook of some presentations and performances. Dr. Dennis Carpenter live streamed some of Rev. Selena's Lammas Lore & Magic workshop at the Green Spirit Festival. With advance permission, Rev. Selena live streamed some of Celia's concert and Max Dashu's workshops. Gretchen Lirtzman live streamed Rev. Selena's Activism with Lady Liberty at the Chicago Pagan Pride Day in September 2017. Response to live streaming thus far has been positive.



Pentacle Quest 10th Anniversary Circle

Young Professionals Network

In March, 2017 Circle Sanctuary Community member Mandie Zopp, assisted by others, launched the Young Professionals Network (YPN) to engage young professionals (ages 18-34 years) and empower them to become future leaders within their community. Through this network, individuals looking to develop professional and career soft-skills can become engaged in online workshops, webinars, one-on-one calls with YPN mentors, networking with others on the YPN Facebook page, as well as workshops conducted at Circle Sanctuary's annual Pagan Spirit Gathering.

Lady Liberty League

Lady Liberty League (LLL) is the Pagan religious freedom and civil rights network sponsored by Circle Sanctuary. The LLL Administrative team is comprised of Rev. Selena Fox, Executive Director; Dianne Duggan (Minerva), Assistant Director; and Casey Pope, Case Manager.

This past year, LLL had much to celebrate. On January 9, 2017, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) added the Awen to its list of emblems of belief authorized for inclusion on the gravestones

and other memorial markers it issues to honor deceased veterans. The first gravestone with the Awen symbol was placed at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery near Arlington, Texas and honors retired Air Force Captain Wayne Laliberte of Texas (1954-2013). The news of the Awen Quest victory was celebrated at Circle Sanctuary's

Imbolc Festival and at the LLL Annual Meeting at Pagan Spirit Gathering (PSG) 2017.



LLL celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Pentacle Quest Victory with a series of events this year. On April 23, a special ceremony in memory of this victory was facilitated by Rev. Selena Fox and Rev. Dave Sassman at Veterans Ridge of Circle Cemetery. In addition, Rev. Selena gave a series of Pentacle

presentations in 2017. Pentacle Quest was also memorialized with a 2-hour Nature Folk-Circle Talk combined podcast featuring some of those who were active in the Quest to get the Pentacle approved for VA-issued grave markers. The Pentacle Quest victory was also observed at the LLL Annual Meeting at PSG in June.

2017 was the inaugural year for the Social Justice Center at Pagan Spirit Gathering. The Social Justice Center provided a new vehicle for dissemination of LLL literature as well as a space to hold workshops. Assistant Director Dianne Duggan and Case Manager

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

Casey Pope offered a workshop entitled Pagan Activism. During this workshop, information was provided about Pagan rights, ways to encourage activism, and methods to combat potential violations of religious rights.

A wide variety of Lady Liberty League Help Requests for assistance have come in from across the USA. Issues have included employment discrimination, child custody, military affairs, public relations, harassment, discrimination in educational settings, and inmate rights. In the past year, LLL has managed 55 cases. Nineteen of these cases dealt with inmate rights, 7 with employment issues, 7 with direct threats, 6 with school-related issues, 4 with child custody, 4 with online issues, 3 were related to government issues, 2 dealt with military rights, 2 were unclassified, and 1 was informational. LLL continues to provide assistance to individuals and organizations concerned with religious freedom issues.

Circle Radio

Circle Sanctuary continues to produce two weekly podcasts, Nature Folk and Circle Talk on Tuesday evenings on the Pagans Tonight Radio Network. Rev. David Ewing, Rev. Jeanet Ewing, Rev. Debra Rose, and Rev. Selena Fox comprise the Circle Radio Ministries team.

In the past year, there have been some special series, including on Love and Romance on Circle Talk in February 2017 and Death Passages on Nature Folk in October 2017. Rev. Selena Fox celebrated her 50 years as a Pagan with My Pagan Life, a three part series on Nature Folk in July.

At times, both podcast shows have combined for specials, including Pagan Voices on the Women's March in January and Pagan Voices on the March for Science in April. In October 2017, Rev. Selena

facilitated a two-hour Remembering Raymond Buckland Memorial Circle that included sharings of memories by his widow Tara, by Llewellyn Publications President and longtime friend Sandra Weschke, and others.

Land & Facilities

Circle Sanctuary volunteers have worked on a variety of special projects as well as engaged in on-going upkeep of grounds and facilities. Brad Allen, assisted by others, has reorganized the basement storage areas of the barn. In October 2017, he and some of those taking part in our Autumn Volunteers Weekend worked with rented heavy trenching equipment supplemented with hand digging with shovels to improve drainage in Meadowvale Field.



Rev. Bob Paxton, Brad, Dr. Dennis Carpenter, and others have helped with wood cutting and mowing of trails and festival grounds. Following a series of storms in July, this team worked together to clear our main driveway and trails of downed trees and brush. Clean up of storm damage is continuing. In the past year, Mary Bobiak, assisted by others, has upgraded Shrines Walk trail as well as the Brigid Spring area. In July 2017, Rev. Selena Fox, Brianne Burne, and Laurie Larson did post-storm clean up in the Stone Circle and Circle Cemetery area.

In October 2017, Circle Sanctuary Naturalist Reed Cockrell supervised a team of environmental science students from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in collecting and distributing seeds in the restored prairie.

Since its construction and dedication at Samhain 2016, Zephyr Brammerson and others have worked together to maintain our multicultural Sweatlodge. In addition, over the past year, Brad and others have worked to improved drainage on the

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

lower road leading to the Sacred Fire Circle and Sweatlodge areas.

At the end of August, just prior to the start of the 2017 Labor Day weekend Sacred Fire Circle, Rev. Sharon Stewart and Dan Stewart guided a team of volunteers in revamping the entire Sacred Fire Circle area with rented equipment and handwork. The area was expanded and new peat was added to the dancing area.

Circle Cemetery

The Circle Cemetery Committee has met several times in the past year as part of updating policies, rates, and protocols. Updated information was published in October 2017.

Most visitors to Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve request and receive guided tours of Circle Cemetery. In addition to talking about natural burial and Green cemeteries during tours, Circle Sanctuary staff and volunteers also do education in talks on site, via podcasts, and in other venues.

In December 2016, Circle Cemetery again took part in the nationwide Wreaths Across America program, a non-profit volunteer endeavor that places evergreen wreaths on veteran grave markers at public and private cemeteries across the USA. Plans are already underway to continue the program in 2017 and future years.

In 2017, there have been two cat burials in the Cat Shrine area. In August 2017, Rev. Sharon Stewart, assisted by Rev. Bob Paxton and others conducted a full body human natural burial in the Burying Grounds of the cemetery. Other Circle Cemetery ceremonies in the past year have included the Samhain Cemetery

Rite in October 2016, Veterans Day Rite in November 2016, Veteran Pentacle Quest 10th Anniversary Rite in April 2017, and Memorial Day Rite in May 2017.

Blessed Bees Apiary

Circle Sanctuary Community member and volunteer Meredith Beckman, inspired by a vision at Sacred Fire Circle 2016, proposed bringing beehives to

Circle Sanctuary and in April 2017, Blessed Bees Apiary began. The project started with two hives placed near the Stream of Consciousness, the waterway flowing through Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve. In the Summer, hives were divided and expanded

to four. Just prior to the Green Spirit Festival in July 2017, the first honey was extracted. Proceeds from honey support this project. Meredith has been training and coordinating Circle Sanctuary's Beekeeping team. In addition, Meredith has done a series of workshops include presentations at Earth Day in April and Welcome Fall in September.



Events at Circle Sanctuary Land

We held 47 events at Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve from Samhain 2016 to Samhain 2017. Events included 12 monthly Full Moon Circles, 8 Workshops, 14 Sanctuary Volunteer Days, and 13 Sabbat Festivals and other Gatherings. In addition, during the past year, we had more than three dozen other events, including land stewardship nights, special volunteers work sessions, and passage rites including baby blessings, coming of age into young adulthood, weddings and burials.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

Pagan Spirit Gathering

The largest event we produce and sponsor is the weeklong Pagan Spirit Gathering (PSG). This weeklong celebration of Summer Solstice and Pagan Community includes rituals, workshops, concerts, bonfires, drumming, vending, youth activities, leadership training institute, and other activities. We returned to Tall Tree Lake campground in southern Illinois for PSG 2017. Our theme this year was “With Our Hands,” and Colleen Koziara created an amazing logo from hand images contributed by Pagan Spirit Gathering community members. New to PSG this year were expanded Youth activities, our first transgender

Indiana; Washington, DC; Frederick, Maryland; and Northern Virginia with information tables staffed by Circle Sanctuary Ministers, Ministers in Training, and other Members.

Ministers & Ministers Training

Circle Sanctuary presently has 29 ordained Circle Sanctuary Ministers from 13 states from across the USA. Circle Sanctuary Ministers serve in a variety of ways, such as facilitating seasonal and lunar ceremonies, life passages, spiritual counseling, administration, networking, education, podcasting, writing, speaking, religious freedom activism,



Some of the coordinators at 2017 Pagan Spirit Gathering at Tall Tree Lake

Senioring Ritual, the Social Justice Center, and an All Gender Ritual to complement Women’s Ritual and Men’s Ritual. Thanks to PSG Manager and Circle Sanctuary Minister Rev. Sharon Stewart and the team of coordinators, assistant coordinators, other festival staff and all who attended for making this one of the best PSGs ever. Plans are underway to return to Tall Tree Lake campground for PSG 2018.

Circle Sanctuary Around the USA

Circle Sanctuary has supported a variety of Pagan events across the USA in the past year. Senior Minister Rev. Selena Fox spoke at PantheaCon in California in February, Phoenix Phyre in Florida in March, Pagan Unity Festival 20th Anniversary in Tennessee in May, St. Louis Pagan Picnic 25th Anniversary in June, and Fort Hood Open Circle 20th Anniversary in Texas in September.

In addition, Circle Sanctuary participated in Pagan Pride Days in Chicago, Illinois; Dayton, Ohio; Madison, Wisconsin; Louisville, Kentucky; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Atlanta, Georgia; Indianapolis,

interfaith diplomacy, and specialty ministries at campuses, hospitals, prisons, hospices, military installations, and other institutions.

Circle Sanctuary has a Ministers Training Program that consists of three phases. Phase one includes education about Circle Sanctuary and its work as well as ministry. Phase two features a supervised practicum. Phase three requires the compilation of a portfolio, an interview with the Ministers Credentialing Committee, and other preparations for ordination. Circle Sanctuary’s Ministers Credentialing Committee is comprised of Circle Sanctuary Ministers: Rev. Selena Fox, Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Rev. Michele Boshears, Rev. Bob Paxton, and Rev. Jerrie Hildebrand.

In the past year, Rev. Michelle Boshears has continued her work as coordinator of Circle Sanctuary’s Ministers Training Program. Six more students have been added to the program. There have been 21 classes offered in the past year taught by Circle Sanctuary Ministers and facilitated by Rev. Michelle.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

In October 2017, Casey Pope of Colorado, who has been doing social media ministry and serving as Lady Liberty League Case Manager over the past year, completed the program, was approved by the Credentialing Committee, and is to be ordained at the 2017 Samhain Festival.

Circle Sanctuary also sponsors the Pagan Leadership Institute, which is held at Pagan Spirit Gathering each year and is open to those of many traditions and group affiliations. It provides training for Pagan ministers, elders, activists, and others in leadership roles as well as those seeking to do community leadership work. At PSG 2017, there were workshops and intensives presented by sixteen ministers and leaders. In Summer 2017, Minister in Training River Higginbotham has begun working with Rev. Michelle and with Rev. Selena Fox in program administration and development.

Interfaith Endeavors

Circle Sanctuary participates in international, national, regional, and local interfaith events and projects. Over the past year, Rev. Harry Dorman continued his work with the Area Council on Religious Diversity (ACORD) in Traverse City, Michigan. Rev. Debra Rose represented Earth Centered faiths in a panel on Death and Dying and also took part in the interfaith Pathways to Peace in Kentucky. In November 2016, Rev. Patrick McCollum expanded his work with interfaith training for federal chaplains and others through the G-Card program in partnership with the American Academy of Religion.

Rev. Selena Fox continued to be part of the monthly Madison Interfaith Dialogue group in Wisconsin and engaged in many local and international interfaith endeavors. In December 2016, she conducted the Freethinkers Sunday Solstice service at the Free Congregation of Sauk County in Wisconsin. In February 2017, she was among those taking part in

the Parliament of World Religions interfaith webinar series in February 2017. In April 2017, as part of Circle Sanctuary's Earth Day Festival, Rev. Selena did youth education for members of the First Unitarian Society who attended as part of an interfaith series sponsored by their church.

Rev. Jerrie Hildebrand continued as Ambassador for the Parliament of the World's Religions and serves on the Ambassador Advisory Council. In addition, Jerrie co-edited an anthology, *Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism*, part of an interfaith series published by Skinner House in May 2017.

Both Rev. Jerrie and Rev. Selena contributed articles to this book.



Brigid Spring

Circle Sanctuary is among the religious organizations nationwide supporting protection of Native American people, sacred sites, and environment. In November 2016, Circle Sanctuary donated food to an interfaith project in Madison, Wisconsin that drove shipments of food and supplies to Standing Rock in South Dakota in support of Water Protectors. In addition, several Circle Sanctuary Community members from across the nation journeyed there and served as volunteers in support roles in some of the

camp. In addition, Circle Sanctuary in the past year has continued to be part of interfaith and multicultural efforts to preserve Native American burial mounds and other sacred sites in Wisconsin and beyond.

Circle Sanctuary's support of World Goddess Day, the first Sunday of September, expanded in 2017. Minister in Training Laura Gonzalez and Senior Minister Selena Fox were among the presenters in the online international multilingual World Goddess Day Symposium (dia Mundial de la Diosa). In addition, on World Goddess Day, September 3, Selena did a free online Goddess Pathways workshop and ceremony by live stream on Facebook, which was viewed by more than 12,000 people from more than a dozen countries around the world.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

Chaplaincies

In October 2017, Rev. Tiffany Andes became the first professional Pagan chaplain in residence at a US Department of Veterans Affairs hospital. She was honored for this achievement at Circle Sanctuary's 2016 Samhain celebration and also recognized on Veterans Day in observances at Circle Sanctuary headquarters as well as in social media. While at the Mountain Home VA Medical Center in Tennessee, she created and facilitated the first ever Ostara, Beltane, Summer Solstice, and Lughnasadh rituals there. These rites were open to all staff, veterans, and family members. She also created and facilitated weekly meditations. In October 2017, she started a VA Chaplain Fellowship at the VA hospital in Lexington, Kentucky.

In January 2017, Circle Sanctuary became a member of the Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies. Also in January, Rev. Tim Staker, Rev. Selena Fox, and Dr. Dennis Carpenter networked with Endorsers from a variety of religious organizations at meetings in the Washington, DC area. Rev. Tim and Rev. Selena represented Circle Sanctuary at the COMISS Network Conference of religious endorsers. Rev. Tim, Rev. Selena, and Rev. Tiffany are presently working on policies and procedures documents necessary for Circle Sanctuary's application for other professional chaplaincy organizations.

Military Ministries

Circle Sanctuary's Military Ministries provide support to those on active duty in the US Armed Forces, veterans, and families. Circle Sanctuary sponsors Pagan Military Circles at 17 US Military installations in the United States and overseas. Rev. Tiffany Andes is program coordinator for the Military Circles Program.

Circle Sanctuary expanded its Military Ministries team providing weekly services at the Great Lakes Navy Recruit Command (commonly known as Navy Boot Camp) in Chicago, Illinois. Rev. Paul Larson coordinates the team, which also consists of Circle

Sanctuary Community members John Markey and Judith Quittner Seizys. In July 2017, Rev. Tiffany created and implemented the Lay Leader credentialing program and John and Judith became the first two lay leaders trained and certified under the new program.

Fort Hood Open Circle, which is among the Pagan Military Circles that Circle Sanctuary sponsors, celebrated its 20th Anniversary in September 2017 with a weekend of activities, including an observance attended by Rev. Selena Fox, the Garrison Chaplain and two other Chaplains, and others.



In November 2016, Judith Quittner Seizys designed a patch celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Operation Circle Care, Circle Sanctuary's program supporting active duty Pagan troops at Yuletide and throughout the year and patches were sent to those serving and to contributors to the program. In September 2017, she redesigned and reproduced Circle Sanctuary's Military Pagan Prayer cards.

Rev. Dave Sassman, who conducts the Pagan Warrior Blessing Ritual each year at Pagan Spirit Gathering and at other events, celebrated his 10th anniversary of doing this ministry. He and Rev. Selena celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Veteran Pentacle Quest victory through a ceremony on April 23, 2017 at Circle Cemetery and in other events.

Pagan Military Service Ribbons (PMSR) are distributed to those who are serving and those who serve at Pagan Warrior Blessings, Pagan Warrior Honorings, and in other ceremonies conducted by other members of the Circle Sanctuary Military Ministries team. In May 2017, as part of observances of US Armed Forces Week, an audio PMSR presentation ceremony was held via a special Circle podcast.

Circle Sanctuary also is engaged in Military Ministries through social media networking, including through Pagan Military Association and Order of the Pentacle pages on Facebook.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

Prison Ministries

Circle Sanctuary does prison ministry services at state and federal institutions in a variety of places across the USA.

Rev. Harry Dorman continues his ministry, now in its 11th year, as religious leader of the Men's Wiccan Circle at the federal prison in Milan, Michigan.

Rev. Paul Larson conducts monthly services for the Pagan Circle at Racine Correctional Institution in Wisconsin.

Rev. Patrick McCollum does prison ministry in several California state prisons.

Rev. Dave Sassman does prison ministry in two Indiana state prisons. In addition, Circle Sanctuary staff and volunteers

send Pagan spiritual resources information to inmates who contact us through postal mail.

In addition, Circle Sanctuary is engaged in diversity education and consultation work in correctional systems. Rev. Selena Fox and Minister in Training Dianne Duggan serve on the Wisconsin Department of Corrections Religious Advisory Committee.

In addition, Rev. Selena Fox is a diversity educator and consultant for the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons (BoP). In June 2017, accompanied by Casey Pope, she educated federal chaplains on Nature Spirituality and Wiccan and Pagan practices as part of a national training program sponsored by the BoP at the National Corrections Academy in Colorado.

Pagan Studies & Campus Ministries

Circle Sanctuary continues to sponsor the Pagan Student Alliance at Northern Illinois University. Rev. Ana Blechschmidt served as the chaplain advisor for this group as well as its representative with the association of Campus Religious Organizations until March 2017 when Circle Sanctuary Community member John Dickerman assumed these roles.



2017 Beltane bonfire

In March 2017, Rev. Selena Fox gave a campus wide talk, Pagan People & Pagan Ways as part of a diversity week program at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh sponsored by the Pagan Student Alliance. Rev. Harry Dorman has done presentations about Paganism at Northwestern Michigan College.

Rev. Vic Wright has assisted Pagan students at Murray State University.

Rev. Paul Larson submitted an article to *The Humanistic Psychologist*, "Divination and psychological assessment, some similarities of process." He has received feedback from reviewers and is currently in the process of making revisions.

Dr. Dennis Carpenter and Rev. Selena Fox continue to work with Circle Sanctuary's Pagan Academic Network, which has been meeting, annually at Pagan Spirit Gathering for more than twenty years. In October 2017, in collaboration with Dr. Dennis and Rev. Selena, Minister in Training Juliana Russell gave this network a social media presence as Pagan Academic Circle.

Circle Community Connections 2017-2018

Festivals & Gatherings

2017

Samhain: October 27-29
Yule: Saturday, December 16
Solstice Eve: Wednesday,
December 20

2018

Imbolc: Saturday, February 3
Welcome Spring:
Saturday, March 24
Earth Day: Saturday, April 21
Beltane: Weekend May 4-6
Welcome Summer: June 9
Pagan Spirit Gathering:
June 17-24
Green Spirit: July 27-29
Sacred Fire Circle:
August 30 - Sept 3
Welcome Fall: September 22
Samhain: October 26-28
Yule: Saturday, December 22

Full Moon Circle Evenings

2017

Friday, November 3
Monday, December 4

2018

Tuesday, January 2
Wednesday, January 31
Wednesday, February 28
Friday, March 30
Monday, April 30
Wednesday, May 30
Wednesday, June 27
Thursday, July 26
Monday, August 27
Monday, September 24
Wednesday, October 24
Wednesday, November 21
Saturday, December 22

Other Events

We also have monthly Sanctuary Days with projects by volunteers, classes and workshops, and special events throughout the year, plus do weekly online workshops, interviews, and discussions through Nature Folk and Circle Talk podcasts on Tuesday nights.

More details in our monthly *Circle Times* e-bulletin and online at the Circle Sanctuary website:

www.circlesanctuary.org



Sacred Fire Circle photo by Meridith Beckman

Periodicals

Circle Times – monthly e-bulletin with news & events updates
Circle Sanctuary News – in print quarterly newsletter for members
Circle Sanctuary Calendar – yearly in print wall calendar
Pagan Spirit Gathering Guide – yearly in print PSG handbook for participants

Social Media

Facebook Pages

Circle Sanctuary Community
Lady Liberty League
Healing Circle
Circle Cemetery
Pagan Military Association
Selena Fox Updates

Facebook Groups

Circle Sanctuary Community
Pagan Spirit Gathering
Circle Sanctuary Volunteers
Sacred Fire Circles
Order of the Pentacle
Young Professionals Network
Pagan Academic Circle

Twitter

@CircleSanctuary
@Pagan_Spirit
@LadyLibertyLeag
@SelenaFox

Instagram

Circle Sanctuary
Pagan Spirit Gathering
Selena Fox

Our Circle Sanctuary Members 2016-2017

Leadership Circle

Lisa Chavez-Markey
John Markey
Richard Wachenheim

Benefactor

Anonymous (12)
Ana Blechschmidt
Jim Blechschmidt
Michelle Boshears
Steven Boshears
Jake Bradley
Chip Brown
Eric Eldritch
Twist Eldritch
Katrina Galle
Cern Green
Leslie Green
Nate Metrick
Bo Nelson
Jennifer Nelson
Tristan Nelson
Bob Paxton
Georgette Paxton
Anaan Sapphira
Dave Sassman
Gail Sassman
Dan Stewart
Sharon Stewart
Helen Umber
Jesse Wilson

Sustainer

Anonymous (11)
Lee Allen
Meredith Beckman
Anna Benton
Megan Cruz
Kathleen A. Dale
Tereesa Daul
Terrill Dent
Messina Duggan
Minerva Duggan
Stephanie Edwards
Pete Heil
Jerrie Hildebrand
Heather Ockler
Amy Randall
Debra Rose
Judith Quittner Seizys
Patrick Slavens
David Steingass
Ron Zorn

Supporter

Anonymous (12)
Robert Barnes
Xochitl Barnes
Eric Bolden
Bree Burne
Michelle Cassella
Beverly Evans
David Ewing
Jeanet Ewing
Guy Frost
Jan Gerstner
Rachel Gordon
River Higginbotham
Michael Houle
Barbara Imai
Ron Lahti
Bryan Lankford
Kirk Leach
Eric Lingenfelter
Rebecca Lingenfelter
Jen O'Malley
Leah Pellegrino
John C. Peterson
Mari Powers
Brenda Rivera
Carol Rivermoon
Natasha Ruiz
Dana Russell-Lankford
Cassandra Shawley
Christopher Shawley
Daniel Shawley
Rebecca Shawley
Adalia Shchurovsky
Steven Swanson

Member

Anonymous (33)
Ira Altman
Angie Amundson
Emily Anderson
Tiffany Andes
Tia Bivens
Zephyr Brammerson
Joan Brennan
Joey Bunbury
Jeffrey Burklow
Kim Campbell
Martha Capo
Dennis Carpenter
Angel Casanova-Torres
Jamie Clemons
Jennifer Columbia
Bella Dare
Richard Dare
Elspeth Depledge-Brale

Francis Doucet
Florence Edwards-Miller
Lunayya Eleniak
Shelli English
Tanya Evans
Selena Fox
Julie Foxhoven
James Frankowski
Ivy Gage
Vance Gibson
Kenneth Goze
Niki Grattan
Kim Hageman
Valeriana Hahn
Paula Hamelik
Rich Harrington
Pat Hippert
Adrienne Hirt
Tina Horton
Heather Howard
Jonathan Hubbard
Kim Huffaker
Anne Jameson
Donna Johnston
Kathy Keehn
Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick
Cathy Koch
Sandy Kucyk
Jane Kurtz
Tami Legler
David Linton
Sylvia Linton
Tony Loup
Lorraine Luebben
Angela Lunsford
Karen Mahinski
Suzanne Mann
Marti Matthews
Jessica Maus
Shannon Mayfield
Rand McGee
Randy Merrick
Judith Michels
Ellyenne Moran
David Mueller
Miriam Myett
Wendy Nichols
Rakelle Noble
Michael O'Leary
Sandra Peters
Casey Pope
Ceora Powers Hull
Sheri Rembert
Viniko Richmond
Jeff Rodman
Jewels Russell

Molly Sawyer
Christa Segers
Sam Shryock
Susan Sims
M.Shel Skau
Ashleigh Smiley
Michael B. Smith
Janie Spratler
Frank Springer
Paul Stackpole
Wolf Stanley
Regina Stovall
Tegan Stynoski
Hubertus ten Pierik
Tajali Tolan
Mike Tomasek
Winter Tredinnick
Jennie Turner
Dumutru Vidican
Kathryn Vidican
Michel Watson
Dale Weaver
Reenie Wesner
Anji Wieserman
Amy Woolard
Jerrah Yarges
McKenzie Zeiss

Active Duty

Storm Oliver

DRGL

Anonymous (2)
Wendy Helms
Gary Webb

Student

Anonymous (1)
Michelle Castle
Michael Caughran
Daryl Daniels
Laura Gonzalez
Gemma Guenther
Chalo Herrera
Melissa Ivanco
Spark Rohret
Derrick Schwartz
Dylan Seale
Morgan Snow
Tami Thomas

Circle Sanctuary, Inc. 2016 Financial Summary

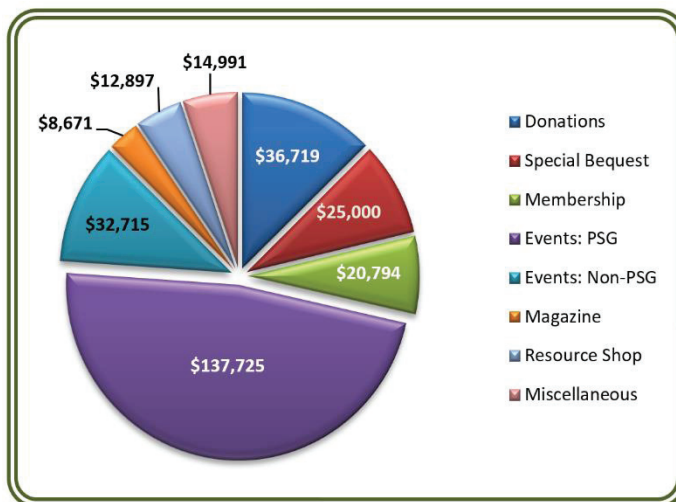
INCOME

Most of Circle Sanctuary's income in 2016 came from **Event Registrations** (59%), **Donations** (13%), **Membership Dues** (7%), and a **Special Bequest** (9%).

Circle received a \$25k one-time bequest which helped greatly with the year-end deficit in 2015. Unrestricted donations were up **\$463** from 2015, and Circle's Membership program brought in an additional **\$20,793**.

Income from PSG 2016 was down **8%** compared to PSG 2015, and was down **31%** compared to PSG 2014. Income from Circle Magazine, which was discontinued in late 2015, was down **61.5%** from 2015. Note that the loss of income from Circle Magazine was countered -- and then some -- by the new Membership income stream.

In 2016, Circle Sanctuary brought in a total of **\$289,512** which is a decrease of **6.7%** over 2015 and **17%** over 2014.

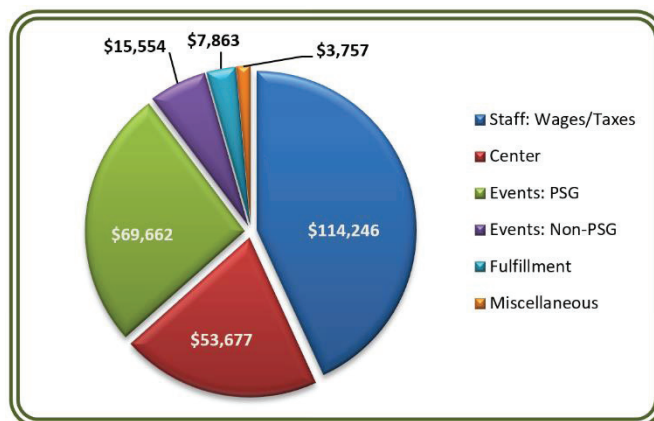


EXPENSES

In 2016, Circle spent a total of **\$264,758**, which is a decrease of **25.6%** over 2015 -- leaving a surplus of **\$24,754**.

Most of Circle's expenses went into four areas:

- **Fulfillment** (3%): Stocking the Resource Shop and printing & mailing CIRCLE Magazine. This was enormously reduced from prior years, with the ending of CIRCLE Magazine.
- **Center** (20%): Day-to-day operation of Circle Sanctuary's office and facilities.
- **Events** (32%): expenses of running festivals and other events organized by Circle Sanctuary, including PSG. This was **14.6%** less than in 2015: Tall Tree was a less expensive home for PSG, and cost containment in the kitchen at Circle-hosted events made a measurable difference.
- **Staff** (43%): Wages, taxes and benefits for the staff members employed in 2016. This declined by **14.2%** from 2015, as we stepped back from having two full-time employees in the office in addition to Selena.



NOTEWORTHY FIGURES

- **Pagan Spirit Gathering** (PSG) is Circle Sanctuary's largest single revenue source, providing **47%** of revenue. While the overall income from PSG declined 8% in 2016 from 2015, significantly lower costs associated with the Tall Tree site left the net profit to Circle roughly the same.
- The combination of **Unrestricted Donations** and **Membership Dues** brought in **\$55,142** in 2016 -- by far, the best year ever for unrestricted donations.
- If one considers only Staff and Center expenses, Circle requires **\$460/day** to finance operations at current levels. By contrast, **Unrestricted Donations** came in at a rate of **\$151/day**. Circle is still dependent on a "fee for service" model, wherein events like PSG are critical ways of funding year-round operations, and initiatives like Membership are an important way of diversifying.

Circle Sanctuary

Circle Sanctuary is a nonprofit international Nature Spirituality resource center and legally recognized Nature Spirituality church. Founded in 1974, Circle helps people from many spiritual orientations connect with each other as well as with the spiritual dimensions of Nature.

Our Mission

Circle Sanctuary is a church rooted in Sacred Land, serving people of Pagan and other Nature-centered spiritual paths. We honor the Divine through nature preservation and fostering community through celebrations, ceremonies, education, outreach and other ministries.

Our Vision

As a result of our sacred work, our vision is of a sustainable organization with strong connects to our local, national and international community, living in a world where our religious traditions and spiritual diversity are respected and honored, and walking in harmony with each other and the greater Circle of Nature of which we all are part.



Circle Sanctuary 2016-2017 Annual Report

Editor: Selena Fox | Designer: Judith Quittner Seizys | Writers: Bob Paxton, Selena Fox, Casey Pope
Publications Support: Gretchen Lirtzman | Photography: Bob Paxton, Meredith Beckman, Selena Fox

www.circlesanctuary.org | circle@circlesanctuary.org | PO Box 9, Barneveld, WI 53507 USA | (608) 924-2216

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