



Circle Sanctuary

SAMHAIN 2019 – SAMHAIN 2020

Annual Report 2020 Reflections by Rev. Selena Fox

This past year has been a year like no other for Circle Sanctuary.

Much has changed since last Samhain when Circle Sanctuary Community members from across the nation joined together on our land for our grand gathering celebrating Samhain and Circle Sanctuary's 45th birthday. At Samhain 2019, we also rejoiced in the progress made in our year-long process of upgrading our facilities and becoming a licensed campground. In addition, we looked forward to the new venue we had found for Pagan Spirit Gathering.

Perhaps the sudden change that emerged for us at the next turning of the Wheel of the Year at Yuletide 2019 was a portent of challenges to come for Circle Sanctuary and the rest of the world in 2020.

We had planned to hold our Longest Night celebration at the historic Gates of Heaven building in downtown Madison, Wisconsin as we had done in previous years. However, one week before our event, we were informed that this venue had been shut down due to flooding in its basement.

Finding an affordable and available venue on short notice during Yuletide was challenging, but after an intensive search process, we found one, and our annual public multicultural Yuletide event was held and went well. This "opportunity to problem solve" was a pragmatic lesson in the importance of focused persistence and resilience in response to sudden change.

The SARS-CoV2 coronavirus, now most widely known as COVID-19, first appeared in late December 2019. In the weeks that followed, it rapidly spread in Asia, Europe, across the USA and around the world. On Wednesday, March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared it a global pandemic.

COVID-19 was in 114 countries, 118,000 people had been infected, and more than 4000 people worldwide had died.

Circle Sanctuary quickly responded to this pandemic declaration news by closing our facilities and shifting our operations online. We cancelled our Sanctuary Day on March 14, and in one week's time, we transformed our Welcome Spring Festival on March 21 to a virtual event. Staff began working from

home. We joined public health education efforts to mitigate virus spread through wearing masks, washing hands, and social distancing in addition to stopping in person gatherings.

Since March, we have continued to transform our Festivals and Full Moon Circles to online events, including our largest event of the year, Pagan Spirit Gathering. We have been learning and working with various video conferencing platforms such as Zoom, Facebook Live, Teams, and YouTube. Many of our online workshops and rituals are now available on [Circle Sanctuary's YouTube](#) channel.

Circle Sanctuary also has been responding to pandemic challenges in other ways. We have provided support to community members and others through individual communications and special online group workings. We have expanded our multicultural, multiracial, and multifaith collaborations for social justice, religious freedom, and wellness. And, we have implemented austerity measures and begun more fundraising to help us survive the severe financial impact resulting from the loss of revenue resulting from canceling all our in person festivals and other events.

As we go into Samhain 2020, the pandemic is still raging around the world. There have been over 40 million cases and more than 1 million deaths



Selena pandemic healing in April at Spirit Rock.

Annual Report 2020 Reflections by Rev. Selena Fox continued

worldwide. As of October 22, 2020, the USA has had over 8 million cases and more than 220,000 deaths. In recent days, the USA has had another spike in the coronavirus spread, with now more than 60,000 new cases daily. How long will this pandemic ravage humankind? No one knows.

Although the past year has brought about many challenges and difficulties for us, there also have been some positive developments for Circle Sanctuary. With the shift of our Sabbats and Full Moons to online, we have become more widely known and appreciated, and our membership has grown. With the archiving of many of our festival workshops, panels, meetings, and rituals at our YouTube channel, our subscribership has increased sufficiently that we can now livestream events there.



Selena honoring the setting sun.

In addition, my work as Circle Sanctuary's Senior Minister has continued to develop in the larger society. In January, in the Washington, DC area, I did the opening prayer and reflection at the annual meeting of the national chaplaincy association, COMISS Network. In February, I facilitated the World Interfaith Harmony Week gathering via zoom at Kekua College in New York State. In early June, I was among the speakers at the online Wisconsin interfaith service, *Together in Mourning and Hope*, which focused on pandemic and racial justice concerns. Later that month, I was among the speakers in a national interfaith round table via zoom sponsored by Americans United for Separation of Church and State in Washington, DC.

In addition, I have networked with other Pagan churches and organizations, and have been a speaker at a variety of Pagan festivals, conferences, and other events that have also moved online. And, I have also served as guest minister for Sunday services at several online Unitarian Universalist churches.

Throughout the pandemic, I have been among the religious leaders in Wisconsin taking part in conference calls and zoom briefings about COVID-19 issues and best practices, including meetings with state government officials. And in September, I was among the religious leaders consecrating Northwoods National Cemetery in northern Wisconsin. This marked the first time a Pagan minister has consecrated a newly created US Department of Veterans Affairs cemetery.

This past year also has been a time for celebrating important milestones. In April, Circle Sanctuary's online Earth Day events were part of the global celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. In August, we joined in the nationwide celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage with a special podcast and an interview. Also, in 2020, we marked the 40th Anniversary of

Pagan Spirit Gathering, 35th Anniversary of Lady Liberty League, and 25th Anniversary of Circle Cemetery through social media, online celebrations, and podcasting.

Each year, Samhain is a powerful crossroads time to reflect on the past, assess the present, and prepare for the future. Although there is much uncertainty ahead, let us take this Samhaintide as an opportunity to deepen our alignments with the Divine and strengthen our connections with each other. May we as Circle Sanctuary Community grow in love, compassion, support, healing, resilience, prosperity, and wellness — now and in times to come!

So Be It!

Selena Fox

Rev. Selena Fox
Samhain 2020

Circle Sanctuary – A Year in Review 2020

Report by Rev. Dianne Minerva Duggan

In this last year, Circle Sanctuary required many people to run day-to-day administrative aspects of the organization and to minister to the community. The Circle Sanctuary Ministers included in this report did far more than what is reported here. With the onset of COVID-19, they modified their ministries and provided for the community while staying as safe and healthy as possible. Moving to virtual activities for work, for ministry, and for community engagement helped to include more geographically distant members of the Circle Sanctuary Community and of the ministry.

Circle Sanctuary Office and Membership

From Samhain 2019 through March 12, 2020, Emily Brammerson continued Circle Sanctuary office operations with support from leadership and volunteers. She did a great job managing the daily business of membership, organization, volunteer coordination, financial management, setting schedules, writing articles, answering questions, and keeping everyone informed as required. In mid-September 2020, Emily left the office to have their (hers and Zephyr's) second child (welcome!!!) and to care for their growing family. We are thankful for her many contributions to Circle Sanctuary and miss her!

Rev. Selena Fox continues to serve as Senior Minister of Circle Sanctuary. Her full-time work includes church administration, conducting rituals, presenting workshops, spiritual counseling, media relations, podcasting, cemetery direction, interfaith diplomacy, religious freedom activism, facilities upkeep, institution representation, chaplaincy endorsement,

cyber ministries development, ministers training, archiving, publications production, Nature preservation, and other work

Rev. Sharon (MoonFeather) Stewart has taken on much of Emily's work as a volunteer and, as our new Office Coordinator, has begun restructuring some of Circle Sanctuary's office operations. She and Evelyn Henn, who worked in the Circle Office in the past are coordinating Circle Sanctuary's

Membership Program. Rev. Sharon also continues her volunteer work coordinating Circle Sanctuary's Facilities Upgrade and Operations Committee. In addition, she continues to be Circle Sanctuary's Festivals Manager and Manager of Pagan Spirit Gathering.

Rev. Dr. Dennis Carpenter continues to lead the financial stewardship and accountancy aspects of Circle Sanctuary. He is assisted in financial records keeping by Rev. Bob Paxton and Rev. Joey Bunbury.

Rev. Casey Pope continues her work as Circle Sanctuary's social media coordinator and in September 2020, began creating and sending out our monthly e-bulletin Circle Times and other community email updates.

As always, Rev. Bob Paxton manages the software and hardware that keeps the Circle Sanctuary office running and keeps us connected. In the past year, the work has been especially challenging due to increased requirements in reaction to the pandemic. When the festivals, sabbats, meetings, and classes transformed to online events this Spring, he helped



Rev. Bob Paxton has captured amazing footage of the Circle Sanctuary land via drone, see them at [Circle Sanctuary's YouTube channel](#).

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guide our efforts to explore and work with platforms to meet our needs.

Volunteers

Circle Sanctuary began our Samhain 2019 to Samhain 2020 spiritual year with regular Sanctuary Days, typically held on the second Saturdays of each month. On those days, volunteers gathered at Circle headquarters to work on the land, to perform administrative tasks, and to serve sacred space. As the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, Circle Sanctuary leadership made the difficult decision to close our headquarters and to have staff and volunteers work remotely. Rev. Sharon (Moonfeather) Stewart, Rev. Bob Paxton, Rev. Dennis Carpenter, and Rev. Selena Fox took on even more work and, with the assistance of volunteers, Circle continued to serve the community.



Revs. Selena Fox and Sharon (Moonfeather) Stewart at Samhain 2019.

There are many named and unnamed volunteers that are part of the intricate web that supports Circle Sanctuary and its work. The Circle Sanctuary Board of Directors consists of Revs. Selena Fox, Dennis Carpenter, Stephanie Edwards, and Bob Paxton. In addition, a variety of volunteers have helped with the festivals and other events, with land maintenance, with fund-raising and with many other activities.

New volunteer opportunities arose as the result of the pandemic. Reverend Florence Edwards-Miller honed her video editing skills to keep Circle's virtual community gathering and information dissemination current. Many others offered their talents to the virtual offerings of Circle. Rev. Bob Paxton, Rev. David Ewing, Rev. Jeanet Ewing, Chris Eldridge, and Rev.

Casey Pope were knee-deep in the technical aspects of keeping Circle festivals running, information current, and community together.

The Circle Sanctuary community is grateful for everything that our volunteers have been doing to keep Circle Sanctuary going before and during the pandemic.

Publications

From Samhain 2019-Samhain 2020, Circle Sanctuary has offered a variety of brochures, reports, program guides, and other publications that keep our membership, the community, and Pagans at-large informed and educated. Circle Sanctuary's regular publications include our quarterly membership newsletter, Circle Sanctuary News, our monthly e-bulletin, Circle Times, our annual Circle Sanctuary Calendar, and our Annual Report. Minister

Training Program (MTP) student Judith Quittner Seizys continues to serve as Circle Sanctuary's graphic artist and designer.

During the past year, volunteers wrote articles and assisted with editing the publications. Rev. Casey Pope, Rev. Minerva Duggan, and Rev. Selena Fox are among our regular writers. Rev. Bob Paxton, Rev. Dennis Carpenter, Judith Quittner Seizys, and Rev. Selena Fox are among our photographers.

Over the past year, some of those who are part of our ministries team also contributed to other Pagan publications. Rev. Florence created some blog posts for *Patheos*. Revs. Selena Fox, Casey Pope, and Dianne (Minerva) Duggan were interviewed by and contributed to *The Wild Hunt* news blog. Rev. Casey

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was interviewed for an article about on-line rituals and another about the Lady Liberty League. An interview with Rev. Selena appeared in *The Witches Almanac*. MTP student James Jufer wrote blog posts on Pagan Studies.

Website

The Circle Sanctuary website has continued to change and grow in the last year. Rev. Bob Paxton oversaw the content and managed web page updates. Rev. David Ewing and member Marshall (Raven) Lyons helped with some web editing and content-building. Circle's website <http://www.circlesanctuary.org> continued to be a safe source for networking and information for Pagans world-wide.

Social Media

From Samhain 2019 through Samhain 2020, Rev. Casey Pope continued to expand her cyber-ministry as Circle Sanctuary's Social Media Coordinator. Throughout the year, she coordinated multiple Facebook pages and groups, Instagram accounts, and Twitter streams. Casey launched events by promoting campaigns for each Circle event, sometimes with paid advertisements. She defined the target audience, monitored metrics, and adjusted the social media plan.

MTP Student Judith Quittner Seizys took on the facilitation of the Facebook Circle Healing Circle and the PSG Cronos' pages. Rev. Christina Dare and others promoted Circle information by Circle Sanctuary social media to other Pagan sites. Rev. Naomi (Messina) Duggan shared events, inspirational videos, and interesting articles on Circle's Facebook groups. Rev. Mari Powers shared her original rituals and seasonal poetry on social media. MTP student Laura González curated the Facebook pages for her Circle podcasts.

MTP student Andrea (Dree) Pike, developed and published (every three days) Instagram posts. She did this with the intention of providing spiritual guidance, comfort, and healing. Rev. Dianne (Minerva) Duggan wrote daily Facebook posts for community meant to console, comfort, and inspire community members during difficult times. In addition, Rev. Selena Fox has been doing livestreams on her main Facebook page, [SelenaFoxUpdates](#) to provide support during pandemic times and has expanded this

work to include weekly livestreams on Facebook of her Wednesday night podcast, Nature Spirituality.

Revs. Bob Paxton and Casey Pope have been managing the Circle Sanctuary YouTube channel. There are archived classes, rituals, festivals, and land tours. The channel helped to keep community connected to each other, to personal practice, and

to the land. During the year, the channel topped 1000 subscribers, making it possible to livestream public and private events.

Circle Sanctuary Network Podcasts (CSNP)

During the Samhain 2019-2020 period, Circle ministers and ministry students produced and hosted a plethora of Circle Sanctuary Network podcasts. The CSNP team includes Revs. Selena Fox, David Ewing, Jeanet Ewing, Debra Gilbert, and MTP student, Laura González, with Rev. Casey Pope assisting with social media. Many ministers, celebrities, students, and community members were guests on 2019-2020 episodes.

Revs. Jeanet Ewing and David Ewing were co-managers of the CSNP. They engineered and produced offerings with Selena Fox (Divining Dreams, Nature Spirituality, Nature Mystic) and their own podcast, Moon Magic. They archived all the episodes so that community members could use the archive for education and reference.



A Full Moon Circle on-line Zoom ritual.

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Rev. Debra Gilbert also is part of the Circle Sanctuary Network Podcasts ministry. She hosts the CSNP show, Circle Talk. Laura González produces Lunatic Mondays (Lunes Lunaticos en Espanol) and Paganos del Mundo. Laura's podcasts are global, multicultural, and multilingual, with broadcasts in Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

This past year, CSNP offered episodes on the history of Circle Sanctuary and its ministries. Rev. Stephanie Edwards discussed the birth of Circle Sanctuary in an episode. Our Lady Liberty League (LLL) team, Revs. Selena Fox, Casey Pope, and Dianne (Minerva) Duggan, discussed LLL's work and the US Constitution's first amendment right to freedom of religion on a special Nature Mystic podcast celebrating LLL's 35th Anniversary. Given the social and political climate of the year, several episodes addressed social justice topics. Rev. Jake Bradley addressed inclusion, racism, and other social justice topics on CSNP. Rev. Naomi (Messina) Duggan was a podcast guest and discussed the Pagan Spirit Gathering (PSG).

Rev. Mari Powers demonstrated a Tarot reading on a Circle Talk broadcast. Rev. Georgette Paxton was one of Laura González' guests speaking on "Forging New Ways of Spirituality." During that episode, Georgette spoke about personal, home spiritual practices during the times of COVID-19. Rev. Selena was a guest on other podcasts during the year. She appeared on Cheryl Costa's Las Vegas podcast, in April 2020, as a guest speaker. She also had a guest spot on Susun Weed's podcast in September 2020.

Nature Preserve

Circle Sanctuary is a church and a spiritual community anchored in Sacred Land, Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve. Our land is 200 acres of forested hills, meadows, and prairie. Located in the Driftless Bioregion of southwestern Wisconsin, it and the nearby Blue Mound State Park were once home to HoChunk and earlier peoples.

Prior to the pandemic, volunteers took part in

monthly Sanctuary Days and twice-yearly Sanctuary Volunteers Work Weekends to care for the land and our facilities. Ecological restoration projects have included prairie burns and removal of invasive species. During the pandemic, Rev. Bob Paxton and Rev. Dennis Carpenter have been among the volunteers mowing Nature trails and doing other groundskeeping. Rev. Bob also has helped with fire safety equipment upkeep, machines maintenance,

and buildings repair. Rev. Bob also has begun doing videoing of drone flights over the land and putting these recordings on the [Circle Sanctuary YouTube](#) channel.

Cemetery

Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve includes a 20-acre national Pagan cemetery which is also one of the first Green cemeteries in North America. Our cemetery includes a ridgetop where ashes are buried and marked with gravestones, a burying ground with full body burials, a restored prairie where ashes are scattered, and our Stone Circle ceremonial area. We are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Circle Cemetery in 2020 year with podcasts and a Cemetery Rituals workshop by Rev. Selena Fox at our online 2020 Samhain Festival.



Our 2019 Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) Ritual was held in the Temple Room at Circle Sanctuary headquarters on November 20. Our 2020 TDOR Rite will be held online.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

Festivals

Our Festivals were held in person from Samhain 2019 through Imbolc 2020. Most of our Sabbat celebrations take place at Circle Sanctuary land. Our Imbolc Festival on Saturday, February 1 was our last large in-person gathering before the pandemic led us to change our Sabbats and Full Moons to virtual events.

Rev. Sharon (Moonfeather) Stewart continues to serve as our Festivals Manager. She works with the individual events coordinators, providing input and guidance, to create meaningful Sabbats for the Circle Sanctuary community.

Revs. Georgette and Bob Paxton coordinated the Samhain 2019 festival at Circle. For an on-site festival, there are many on-site roles that must be filled. Rev.

Naomi (Messina) Duggan served as 'kitchen witch' for Samhain 2019. Rev. Georgette wrote and led the main ritual for the festival.

Yule 2019 was coordinated by Community member Niki Grattan. Niki's first festival as coordinator focused upon the "Season for Sharing" and was well-received. It included Chris Eldridge, one of our Community bards sharing seasonal stories and songs. Rev. Naomi (Messina) Duggan led the main ritual.

Our 2019 Longest Night Celebration was coordinated by Rev. Selena Fox. It is our annual public multicultural and interfaith Winter Solstice celebration that includes music, storytelling, poetry, and a candlelight meditation for world peace. Due to repairs needed at the venue we had used in past years, we held the celebration at a new location, a dance studio on the westside of Madison, Wisconsin.

The Imbolc 2020 festival (Light is Returning!) was Circle's last in-person festival pre-pandemic. Community member Amanda Bahnson coordinated the day. The main Sabbat ritual was led by MTP student Grace Kilpatrick.

On March 21, 2020, Rev. Shelly Skau coordinated Circle's first virtual festival, Welcome Spring and Rev. Bo Nelson led the on-line main ritual. That was the first time that Circle Sanctuary offered rituals in virtual space and it was well-received.

In April, we held our Earth Day Festival, which this year was a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Rev. Selena Fox facilitated the Earth Day rite.

The virtual festivals required different sorts of volunteers for the events. They depended upon technically savvy community members

who produced web content to meet the spiritual needs of the community. Beltane, coordinated by Rev. Sharon (Moonfeather) Stewart followed next and Rev. Sharon led the main rite, "Beltane for the Senses."

Revs. Bob and Georgette Paxton coordinated the Green Spirit Festival, which offered workshops from other community members and an affirming main ritual which they led.

Circle's Welcome Fall was coordinated by community members Paul (Truly) Herrick and Hollis Masson. Their workshops addressing magickal protection were well-presented. Rev. Florence Edwards-Miller conducted a beautiful Sabbat ritual that included a timely Covid-19 face-mask blessing.

Circle Sanctuary's Samhain 2020 Festival is being coordinated by Rev. Naomi (Messina) and Dianne



Our Imbolc Festival on February 1, 2020 was coordinated by Amanda Bahnson and included her Candle Making for Candlemas Workshop pictured here.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

(Minerva) Duggan with Community members Marshall (Raven) Lyons and Joe (Aviel) Lynch. They also facilitated the meditative ritual, videoed in the Spiral Labyrinth at Circle Sanctuary land. Festival theme is “Spiral In or Spiral Out, Ancestors All About.”

Pagan Spirit Gathering

In a typical year, Circle Sanctuary community members and other Pagans from around the nation gather for a week of camping, learning, camaraderie, and celebrating the Summer Solstice.

At Beltane, Circle Sanctuary leadership made the difficult decision to cancel the in-person Pagan Spirit Gathering (PSG). In its place, the PSG team developed a plan for a virtual PSG (vPSG). The event was the first of its type sponsored and broadcast by Circle. The schedule was developed to promote community-building, faith celebration, and learning.

Rev. Sharon (Moonfeather) Stewart led the team that planned and presented the festival. Rev. Naomi (Messina) Duggan and Rev. Bob Paxton worked with Rev. Sharon to develop a virtual event that was as close to the in-person event as possible. Rev. Messina and Rev. Moonfeather focused on programming for the event that included workshops, concerts, and gatherings. Rev. Bob, Rev. Casey Pope, Rev. Jeanet Ewing, Rev. Dave Ewing, and Chris Eldridge managed the technical side of the event. At on-site PSG events, there were morning meetings that included announcements, coordinator’s reports, daily weather reports and any other pertinent information. For vPSG, Rev. Dennis Carpenter led the Friday morning meeting and Rev. Bob Paxton led the Sunday morning meeting. It helped get everyone into the spirit of each day.

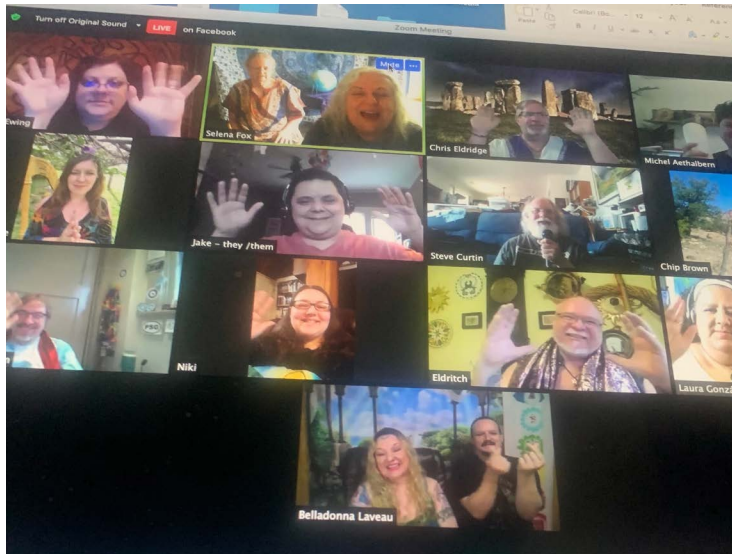
On Saturday, Rev. Selena Fox facilitated an on-line version of our annual Summer Solstice Morning Ritual and in the evening, longtime Circle Sanctuary Community member and PSG ritualist David Doersch coordinated our Summer Solstice Evening Ritual.

Another regular on-site happening is the sacred fire and the Bonfire ritual. Brian Holt and the Bonfire crew lit the Solstice Fire at the beginning of our virtual “gathering” and kept it lit throughout the

festival. They also hosted a Bonfire Ritual that brought us “Home.” Many of the PSG centers were represented at vPSG. The Crone Temple held its opening ritual and meetings; Rev. Ana Blechschmidt and MTP student Anji Wieserman led those efforts. As there was no manner to offer the on-site Sacred Hunt to attendees, Rev. Bo Nelson hosted an on-line trance experience to help connect the hunters to their process. Rev.

Wayne (River) Higginbotham co-facilitated a virtual EnCHANTment event that enabled attendees to gather and chant together in virtual space. Rev. Paul (Chiron) Larson and his team (Paul “Truly” Herrick, Tonya Winingar, and volunteers such as MTP student James Jufer) led daily Grounding and Centering rituals at the virtual Psyche’s Grotto.

The virtual event had a Magenta Luncheon just as would have happened at the on-site event. Rev. Jake Bradley coordinated the Daily Gender Liberation Check-in. Rev. Jake and Rev. Eric Eldritch hosted the Social Justice panel discussion. MTP student Juliana Russell hosted a chat room gathering for the Pagan Academic Circle. Rev. Florence Edwards-Miller, Family Center Coordinator, offered family programming that included story-time. Rev. Debra Gilbert presented a workshop on virtual ceremonies; such a timely offering.



Virtual Pagan Spirit Gathering 2020 included our annual Summer Solstice Morning Ritual by Zoom.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

Attendees were treated to concerts from some of PSG's favorite Pagan musicians and some new (to the event) musicians. The participating musicians and groups were: Maevyn Stone, Meren King, TAC, Krista Chapman, Beltana Spellinger, SJ Tucker, Thundersirens, Lou Garou, Celia, and Spiral Rhythm. These concerts were a highlight of the event.

Rituals

As is true every year, rituals were an important part of our community's spiritual life. Rev. Selena Fox, assisted by others, facilitates monthly Full Moon Circles. In Spring 2020, Full Moon Circles transformed from in person gatherings at Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve into online gatherings via Zoom. Each Full Moon Circle has a theme and includes invocations, music, meditations, and energy workings by a variety of Circle Sanctuary Community ministers and members.

In addition, Revs. Jeanet and David Ewing facilitate a variety of Lunar rites through their twice monthly Moon Magic podcast on the Circle Sanctuary Network Podcasts.

Other ministers and ministry students have been able to make connections and have rituals, in person and virtually, through local UU churches. Elizabeth Rohret (MTP student) has been deepening her faith and practice in this way. Sean-Thomas Gunnel (MTP student) also led rituals for his UU location.

Circle Sanctuary's ministers and community were involved in other forms of ritual during 2019-2020. Rev. Dianne (Minerva) Duggan officiated a wedding for two Circle community members. In October 2020,

Rev. Selena Fox facilitated her first zoom Pagan handfasting, a 10th anniversary rededication. Other rituals included our annual Veterans Day ceremony and our yearly Transgender Day of Remembrance Rite held in person in November 2019.

Liturgical Creations

Throughout the Samhain 2019-2020 period, Circle Sanctuary ministers, ministry students, and community members crafted a variety of liturgical

creations including chants, invocations, meditations, rituals, and prayers. Rev. Selena Fox began sharing some of her Sabbat and Lunar chants via her [Selena Fox YouTube](#) channel and through livestreams on her [SelenaFoxUpdates](#) Facebook page.

Rev. Jake Bradley, with Rev. Naomi (Messina) Duggan, Kay Kro, and Nate Metrick, collaborated

with coordinators of the Young Women's and Young Men's Rites of Passage to create a Youth Rites of Passage. This served to unify and standardize youth rites.

Rev. Georgette Paxton wrote and performed the poetic "Prayer to Brigid." This was a call to Deity during uncertain times; it focused on health and well-being during times of COVID-19. She performed the piece, for the first time, on CSNP radio show. She also wrote and performed liturgy for the Green Spirit main ritual, "Thriving Abundantly."

Rev. Naomi (Messina) Duggan created the meditation used in the Samhain 2020 main ritual. She wrote it with the assistance of Rev. Jake Bradley and MTP student Andrea (Dree) Pike. Chaplain Charlotte Bear created a new "Lady Liberty" chant and led it for the community during social justice gathering.



Presenters at our 2019 Longest Night Celebration in Madison, Wisconsin. Circle Sanctuary sponsors this multicultural & interfaith public Yuletide event each year.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

Minister Training and Development

Minister training and development encompasses many activities and foci in Circle Sanctuary. Circle sponsored and offered the Ministry Training Program (MTP). Circle's cadre of ministers and students participated in Circle training, public training, private study, and in other methods of growth and development.

From Samhain 2019-Samhain 2020, Revs. Wayne (River) Higginbotham and Eric Eldritch administered the MTP. They established the schedule, guided the students, organized the instructors and speakers, taught classes, and performed administrative functions. Rev. Selena Fox continues to be part of the MTP administration team and teaches in the program. For the Fall 2020 term, Rev. Michelle Boshears returned to the team after a sabbatical and worked on MTP admissions. Our Ministers Credentialing Committee now

includes: Revs. Selena Fox, River Higginbotham, Eric Eldritch, Michelle Boshears, Bob Paxton, Jerrie Hildebrand, and Dr. Dennis Carpenter. The Committee gives input on applicants as well as interviews advanced students at the conclusion of their studies as part of their journey toward ordination.

Many Circle Sanctuary Ministers and advanced students teach workshops and lead discussions as part of MTP. Circle Ministers also have the option of attending classes with the students as part of continuing education. Students received classes on ministry theory, social topics, Circle history, and Circle practice, for example. Rev. Georgette Paxton presented a class on the history of the *Circle*

Magazine. Rev. Jake Bradley taught MTP classes on "Social Justice and Social Media," and "Inclusion and Community." MTP student Andrew Bear presented the "Climate Change Reality Check" class. Rev. Timothy (Cern) Staker taught a "Grief Ministry" workshop that was valuable to ministers and students. "Self-care" was another topic offered to the MTP — Rev. Naomi (Messina) Duggan joined others in teaching and leading discussion on that important aspect of ministry. Rev. Selena Fox did a special MTP

program on Religious Freedom on Indigenous Peoples Day, October 12, 2020.

An essential part of ministry training is mentoring. Ministers can and do have mentors of leaders and other ministers. MTP students are assigned mentors to accompany and guide them through their final stages of the MTP program. Rev. Casey Pope, Rev. Eric Eldritch, Rev. Cern Staker, and Rev. Harry (PathWalker) Dorman are among those presently doing mentoring work.



Circle Sanctuary presented an EcoActivism Panel at PantheaCon in mid February 2020 in San Jose, California. (left to right): Andrew Bear, Selena Fox, & Charlotte Bear spoke & Andrea (Dree) Pike (right) assisted.

Circle Sanctuary continues its work in training program development. In July 2020, the MTP administrative team began a Curriculum Review Committee. The group was led by Rev. Wayne (River) Higginbotham and Rev. Eric Eldritch with Rev. Naomi (Messina) Duggan having directed the course review portion of the project. Rev. Bob Paxton provided guidance and advice to MTP leadership as the project commenced. Revs. Dianne (Minerva) Duggan and Jake Bradley participated in the endeavor. MTP students James Jufer, Liz Rohret, Andrea (Dree) Pike, and Laura González offered their energy toward the program review. The group also began an effort to revamp Circle's Ministerial Core Competencies.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

Chaplains Program

Circle Sanctuary has continued developing its Chaplains Program of training, endorsement, and credentialing for Circle Sanctuary Ministers who are professional Chaplains or are seeking this career path. Circle Sanctuary is a member of several national Chaplaincy associations, including COMISS Network and the Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies (AREB). Over the years, Revs. Timothy (Cern) Staker, Rev. Tiffany (Denora) Andes, Dr. Dennis Carpenter, and Rev. Selena Fox have represented Circle Sanctuary at national Chaplaincy conferences. Chaplains Charlotte Bear and Andrew Bear have joined Circle Sanctuary's Chaplaincy education and service work, including contributions to the emerging field of EcoChaplaincy.

Pagan Studies, Teaching, and Professional Education

An essential aspect of ministry and community is spiritual teaching. From Samhain 2019 through Samhain 2020, this was especially true. Spiritual teaching was another way to reach out and engage with our community. Pagan studying and teaching took many forms during the last year. Some ministers and community members taught at festivals, sabbat events, and as part of the MTP program. Others taught in their local areas at UU churches, on-line, and at local shops.

Rev. Florence Edwards-Miller taught children's religious education at Circle events before the lockdown. Rev. Jake Bradley taught social responsibility at the Earth Day event. They regularly offered social justice education that addressed racial justice, immigrants' rights, and social outreach. At Samhain 2020, student Laura González presented education on cultural appropriation to the Circle community.

Rev. Selena Fox continues to teach through two weekly podcasts (Nature Mystic and Nature Spirituality) and via pop-up Facebook livestreams. Representing Circle Sanctuary, she speaks at variety of conferences, festivals, podcasts, and other events.

Virtual Pagan studies and professional education became more prevalent after March 2020. It has always been imperative for ministers to continue their education and hone their ministry skills.



Spirit Rock at Circle Sanctuary.

Rev. Casey Pope participated in several webinars, directed at pastoral counselors, on such topics as "Chaplaincy/Interfaith/Pastoral Counseling," "Psychological First Aid for Chaplains," "Caregiving for the Caregiver," and "Death and Grief." Rev. Timothy (Cern) Staker attended classes on "Hospital Ministry to African-Americans." Rev. Georgette Paxton took the initiative to train in "Bystander Intervention," "Recognizing and Addressing Conflict,"

and "Rituals of Connection." Rev. Selena Fox has taken part in a series of webinars on pandemic response best practices presented by the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab, McLean Hospital, and other institutions.

In addition to expanding their ministerial skills and knowledge in 2019 through 2020, folks delved into a variety of forms of Paganism. Rev. Mari Powers studied the Feri Tradition more closely. Rev. David Ewing explored the OBOD training program. MTP Student Andrew Bear has delved in to the "Old Faery Tradition" when he wasn't studying for MTP classes.

Rev. Jake Bradley, in their professional career, received and offered continuous public training on

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

cultural competence and inclusion, disability rights, LGBTQI+ inclusion, fair housing and housing justice, immigrants' rights, trauma and its impact, Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Mental Health and Mental Health First Aid, First Aid and CPR, clinical skills like Motivational Interviewing, Harm Reduction, Crisis Intervention, Suicide Intervention, Overdose Prevention and Intervention. They share the training with Circle ministers and students when they can.

Rev. Christine (Bella Mahri) Dare took on two Wicca students in the past year and Rev. Richard Dare continued his personal, deep study of Paganism. MTP student Sean-Thomas Gunnell took leadership training to support his future ministry and began exploring hermeticism.

Campus Ministries

An important aspect of Circle Sanctuary's ministerial work was Campus Ministry. As with every other aspect of service and experience, gatherings were held in-person until March 2020. After that, ministers and ministry students made virtual contact with campus groups in order to provide guidance and leadership.

Over the past year, MTP student Juliana Russell held a Winter Solstice celebration and an Imbolc event for her campus group. She also has continued her work with the Pagan Academic Circle Facebook group to assist academics and to provide a networking platform for Pagan Studies. Rev. Ana Blechschmidt did spiritual advising with Northern Illinois University. Rev. Shel Skau also offered aid to her local college campus.

Military Ministries

One of the Pagan ministries that Circle Sanctuary provides is support to active service members,

veterans, and their families. Rev. Tiffany Andes oversees Circle Sanctuary's Pagan Military Circles program. We sponsor groups at several dozen US Military installations. Additionally, over the past year, she has taken classes on post-traumatic stress in order to serve military and post-military clients.

Revs. Tim (Cern) Staker, Dave Sassman, Debby (Tristan) Morris, and others performed Warrior Blessing rituals and provided spiritual support to

veterans, including in VA hospital settings. Rev. Debby (Tristan) Morris continued her support to the VA Chaplain service. MTP student, James Jufer has helped facilitate networking through our Pagan Military Association Facebook page. He continues to serve while in divinity school.

MTP student Judith Quittner Seizys, with her mentor Rev. Paul (Chiron) Larsen, provided services to the recruits at Great Lakes Recruit Training

Command. Although in person group meetings were stopped in March 2020 due to the pandemic, at chaplains' request Judith compiled a packet on Nature Centered Spirituality that was distributed to over 5,000 military recruits.

On September 16, 2020, Rev. Selena Fox, accompanied by Circle Sanctuary Community member and neighbor Michel Aethalbern, journeyed to northern Wisconsin to consecrate a new VA cemetery, the Northwoods National Cemetery. She was among the religious leaders of diverse spiritual traditions invited to do consecration ceremonies prior to the opening of the cemetery. She did Wiccan, Druid, Heathen, and Interfaith consecration work and was assisted by Michel.



Full Moon Circle, March 9th, 2020.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

Prison Ministries

From Samhain 2019 through mid-March 2020, Circle Sanctuary's prison ministries continued as in previous years. MTP student Grace Kilpatrick facilitated Pagan groups in two prisons in southern Wisconsin. She made regular visits to Oakhill and Prairie du Chien facilities and had planned to start going to the Kettle Moraine institution. However, COVID-19 restrictions paused all in-person services at prisons.

In addition to Grace's work, Circle representatives performed some Sabbat rituals in prisons and provided general education for Pagan prison inmates and prison chaplains. Rev. Paul (Chiron) Larson made prison pastoral visits to inmates. Rev. Dave Sassman continued his ministry at three Indiana Department of Corrections facilities until the pandemic stopped this. Rev. Harry (PathWalker) Dorman has continued to interface with chaplains at Milan Federal Correctional Institution in Michigan but has not done in person work due to the pandemic.

Revs. Selena Fox and Dianne (Minerva) Duggan continue to serve on the Wisconsin Department of Corrections Religions Practices Advisory Committee with many other faith leaders. The committee oversees religious accommodation and policy development in Wisconsin correctional facilities. Additionally, Lady Liberty League continues to do Pagan religious accommodation education with administrators and chaplains in a variety of state and federal prisons across the USA.

Spiritual Counseling

Circle Sanctuary ministers and community members have spent more counseling time this year than in any other. Rev. Sharon (Moonfeather) Stewart reported that she guided folks as they dealt with loss of jobs and income, family members/loved ones, with depression, with isolation and more.

Many ministers spent time creating virtual ways to comfort and guide. Rev. Bo Nelson created and

facilitated on-line rituals and workshops and created community support groups for some of the PSG community. Rev. Ana Blechschmidt wrote letters and cards to community members, friends, and acquaintances to help them through the difficult times.

Folks found that reaching out through social media became increasingly more important as the pandemic created isolation has continued. Revs. Joey Bunbury, Dianne (Minerva) Duggan, and Jerrie Hildebrand report

reaching out more by telephone and social media. Rev. Jake Bradley and many others worked to develop their virtual engagement skills and platforms; Zoom, Google Meet, and Discord became essential connection tools.

Over the past year, Rev. Selena Fox's spiritual consultation and counseling services with clients by telephone and by Zoom have continued to grow. She also has provided support through social media. Selena's work has included one-on-one support with Circle Sanctuary Community members with COVID-19 and with loved ones battling the coronavirus. She also has been providing support to several healthcare workers on the frontlines of



Rev. Selena Fox consecrating Northwoods National Cemetery, a new VA Cemetery in northern Wisconsin on September 16.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

battling the pandemic in various places across the USA. Since the pandemic began, Selena has taken part in chaplaincy webinars and other training sessions addressing mental health concerns and pandemic stress.

During the pandemic, MTP student Anji Wieserman has been counseling local Pagans in her area via phone and Zoom. She reported that many of those who sought aid were dealing with issues of isolation, self-doubt, or crises of faith due to current events. MTP student Christabelle Sapphire Carpenter assisted several small business owners in filing for their unemployment and applying for disaster loans. She, like others, assisted people with grief counseling in person and online.



Archivists Evelyn Henn and Robin Umber with Rev. Selena Fox.

MTP student Andrew Bear provided grief support and led Critical Incident Stress Management Defusing groups for the staff at the hospital where he is chaplain. In September 2020, Rev. Casey Pope began her masters' program in counseling. She also counseled Pagans by phone, Zoom, and Facebook messenger.

Rev. Bob Paxton counseled local Circle folks through a variety of virtual platforms. Rev. Ana Blechschmidt provide phone counseling for COVID-19 and life issues. Rev. Stephanie Edwards used phone and Facetime to provide pastoral care. Rev. Vic Wright made herself available for countless hours on the phone, text, email and private zoom chats with people from the Circle community in counseling and support.

With many reporting that increases in needs for spiritual counseling during COVID, those engaged in Circle Sanctuary ministries also are making time

to check in with their own spiritual mentors and their personal counselors. They employed methods of self-care so that they were able to better serve the community. Many meditated, got more rest, exercised, gardened, and took up new or renewed hobbies in order to find solace.

Hospital Chaplaincy and Healthcare Ministries

Critical areas of Circle Sanctuary ministry include hospital chaplaincy and healthcare ministries. Rev. Timothy (Cern) Staker serves as a hospital chaplain in Indianapolis, Indiana. His ministry became more critical as the pandemic spread and COVID-19 primary and secondary illnesses and deaths occurred.

Like Rev. Timothy (Cern) Staker, Chaplains Char and Andrew Bear are

healthcare chaplains by profession. They were all on the front lines of spiritual support in hospitals and virtually. MTP student Liz Rohret worked as a nurse, seeing first-hand the spiritual toll of Covid-19 and grief. Rev. Debby (Tristan) Morris supported the Veterans Affairs (VA) Chaplain Service while serving as her hospital's only qualified ventilator technician.

Chaplain Andrew Bear is an essential worker and is serving as part of his medical center's response to COVID-19. During the initial surge, when the hospital was being overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases, and ICUs were full, he reached out to all family members, who were not allowed to visit, to provide emotional and spiritual support. Like many others, he had to modify ways that spiritual care was offered to COVID-19 patients, such as coordinating video visits from Roman Catholic priests for sacrament of the sick ("last rites"). He developed a "We Care for You"

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

cart, with snacks, laminated mindfulness and self-compassion meditation cards that were given out, and a prayer request box, that he took to the various units and departments for staff and clinician support.

End-Of-Life Support Ministries

Many of our community members and ministerial team provide end-of-life ministry of pre- and post-death support for families, friends, patients, and clients. To enhance her support, Rev. Sharon (Moonfeather) Steward continued her education and became certified as an “End-of-Life Specialist.” As a certified practitioner in the “No One Dies Alone” program, she practiced it locally. Chaplain Andrew Bear, in California, worked with his hospital administration to develop a “No One Dies Alone” program for COVID-19 patients who are actively dying.

Several community members ministered to members of their own families in anticipation of and after deaths of loved ones. Rev. Mari Powers provided some end of life ministry for her mother and siblings, during her father’s final days. Rev. Debra Gilbert cared for family and friends during and after her father’s death in spring, 2020. Rev. Selena Fox has continued her work in end-of-life support and over the past year has done crossing over rites with the dying and their families via telephone and video conferencing at a variety of healthcare institutions.

Pagan Pride Days & Pagan Festivals

Pagan Pride Days are events where area Pagans share space, time, rituals, workshops, and shopping with fellow Pagans. The events happen across the country. In November 2019, Rev. Selena Fox was among the guest speakers at Las Vegas Pagan Pride

in Nevada. During the pandemic, many in-person Pagan Pride events were cancelled, and others moved online. In September 2020, Rev. Selena spoke at the virtual Puget Sound Pagan Pride in Washington State.

Other members of the Circle ministerial team were involved in Pagan Pride events around the country. MTP student Juliana Russell was one of the organizers of Fort Wayne, Indiana Pagan Pride virtual event. Fellow student

Laura González offered the “Creating Your Own Reality” workshop at that event. At the Greater Chicagoland Pagan Pride Day event, Laura taught “The Healing Arts of Mexico.” Laura also appeared, virtually, at Orgullo Pagano Venezuela.

Circle Sanctuary ministers and community members also have been part of other Pagan Festivals, in person and online in the past year. In mid-February 2020, Rev. Selena, Judith Quittner

Seizys, Andrew Bear, Char Bear, Brianne RavenWolf, and Dree Pike were among the speakers at the final PantheaCon in San Jose, California. Selena also has been a featured speaker at a variety of virtual Pagan conferences and festivals including Spring Mysteries, Pagan Unity & Three Gates Festival, Starwood Festival, and WitchFestUSA. In October 2020, Rev. Fox was among the presenters at the virtual International Pagan Music Association (IPMA) Pagan Music Awards, which was simultaneous broadcast on several platforms in seventeen countries.

Interfaith Ministries

Many Circle Sanctuary ministers, ministry students, and community members participated in interfaith



Rev. Selena Fox virtual Earth Day celebration, 2020.

Circle Sanctuary Year in Review continued

activities. The events included pre-pandemic in-person events as well as virtual events during the pandemic.

In December 2019, Chaplain Andrew Bear organized and led the Homeless Person's Interfaith Memorial Service, on the Winter Solstice in San Jose, California. Wiccan, Buddhist, Jain, Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Jewish, Unitarian, and Christian clergy attended and participated in the service. Elizabeth Rohret and Sean-Thomas Gunnel (MTP students) participated in and led Universalist Unitarian (UU) events.

James Jufer (MTP student) led an interfaith audience in a Universalist Symbol for Digital Chapel at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (CRCDS) in New York in September 2020.

Rev. Jake Bradley's full-time employment is social ministry and education of help professionals. As part of this, they regularly participate in interfaith collaboration and social action. They engaged in the virtual Ivy League college class program for training on Worlds' Religions and Sacred Texts. Rev. Dianne (Minerva) Duggan was involved with representatives of many faiths during the Americans United for the Separation of Church and State Johnson Amendment training. She, along with Selena, also is a part of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) Religious Practices Advisory Committee (RPAC) which brings together Humanists, Buddhists, Jews, Catholics, Pagans, Muslims, and representatives of other faiths.

Rev. Jerrie Hildebrand continues to serve with the ambassadors of the Parliament of the Worlds'

Religions (PWR). Other ministers and students spent time studying about different faiths. For example, Rev. Casey Pope completed the Sufi Guide Candidate training developing leadership and spiritual mentorship capabilities, learning practices and core teachings of Universal Sufism. Rev. Eric Eldritch engaged in interfaith anti-racism teaching. MTP student Andrea (Dree) Pike participated in the "Engaging Faith Leaders in Addressing Mental Illness" workshop in Portland, Oregon. Randall

McGee (MTP student) was employed by another faith and represented Paganism to them daily.

Rev. Selena Fox's interfaith work over the past year has included in person and virtual speaking engagements. She did the opening prayer at the November 2019 meeting of the Multifaith Coalition of South Central Wisconsin

in Madison. In January 2020, she became the first Pagan endorser to do the opening prayer and reflection for COMISS Network national chaplaincy association conference which meets annually in the Washington, DC area. In February 2020, she spoke at the World Interfaith Harmony Week gathering by Zoom at Keuka College in New York State and in April 2020, was among the contributors to the Earth Day ceremony by Zoom at CRCDS. In June, she was among the speakers at the statewide virtual interfaith service sponsored by Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, and later that month, she was among the religious leaders dialoguing at the virtual Interfaith Round Table sponsored by Americans United for Separation of Church and State. In addition, she has served as guest minister conducting Sunday services at several Unitarian Universalist churches in Wisconsin and Michigan. Rev. Fox has been active in Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice over the past year.



Pre-order your 2021 Circle Calendars now at the Resource Shop: www.circlesanctuary.org/store/

Circle Facilities & Operations Committee Report

by Rev. Sharon Stewart

This committee was formed in August of 2019 to tackle facility concerns on Circle Sanctuary land. The committee is headed by Rev. Sharon Stewart along with Board Member Rev. Bob Paxton and Circle Community Members Brad Allen and Evelyn Henn. As with many things, unfortunately the momentum and work of this committee has been slowed with the pandemic.

In 2019, Circle was able to become a licensed campground and obtain a temporary restaurant license for the house kitchen. These permits were re-issued for 2020.

Also, in 2019 the bat removal and massive clean-up of the barn was completed. Additional work in the storage areas of the barn is now underway. The new furnace and air conditioner in the house that was donated by a Circle Sanctuary Community Benefactor has been installed.

Over the Summer of 2020, the existing overhead power lines coming to and across Circle Sanctuary land were converted to underground. Dennis, Selena, Bob and Sharon worked with the power company and surveyors to ensure the least amount of environmental impact on the land. Future plans include expanding electrical capacity.

The biggest project completed in the past year was getting the new septic system installed for the house.

In 2019 we had a plan drawn up by an engineer and approved by the state for two septic systems, one for the house and one for a potential shower house with flush toilets. With the pandemic shutdown of in-person events, loss of income from those events and uncertainty of when that may change, we felt it was best not to proceed with the large septic system for a shower house. Rev. Sharon worked with the installer and the county zoning to adjust the plans and permits. The house septic project was completed in June of 2020.



Sharon, Dennis, and the electrical consultant, planning for moving the electric lines underground.



A new septic tank was installed for the farm house.

In Autumn of 2019, we also met with two companies to get suggestions and estimates on potential showers and flush toilets on site. There were several opinions on location of a stand-alone building or an addition to the barn. We also began forming a capital fundraising committee. But again, due to the pandemic, we felt it was prudent to table these projects for the time being.

Bob continues to go to Circle Sanctuary land, do equipment and buildings maintenance and inspections. Bob and Dennis continue to mow trails and other groundskeeping. Selena, Dennis, and Bob are continuing with cemetery grounds upkeep.

What does 2021 look like for the Facilities & Operations Committee? Like everyone else, we wish we knew! But rest assured, once things return to what our new normal will be, this Committee will be back hard at work!



Lady Liberty League Celebrates 35 Years

2020 marked the 35th anniversary of Lady Liberty League. Three special podcasts were held to celebrate this event, including Pagan Freedom and the Lady Liberty League, Pagan Power and Pagan Rights, and Stories of the Veteran Pentacle Quest. Archives of these podcasts can be found on Circle Sanctuary Network Podcasts (CSNP) and on podcasting apps such as Apple Pod-casts, Spotify, Stitcher, iVoox, and TuneIn. For more information, see the CSNP webpage: www.circlesanctuary.org/index.php/organization/circle-podcasts. The Wild Hunt published an article detailing LLL's 35 years of hard work defending Pagan religious freedom. The article can be found here: <https://wildhunt.org/2020/09/lady-liberty-league-celebrates-35-years-of-defending-pagan-civil-rights.html>.

LLL's annual meeting was held during Virtual Pagan Spirit Gathering 2020 in June via Zoom with livestream to Facebook. The annual meeting can be found on Circle Sanctuary's YouTube channel, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yunK0j-SbA>. The meeting features current and former LLL staff volunteers, and consultants sharing stories about key cases over the years, including the Pentacle Quest. Celia Farran honored LLL with special music about liberty and freedom.

Although the overall number of reported cases of

discrimination was down for 2020, we have seen an increase in cases involving direct threats and harassment. The bulk of LLL's caseload for 2020 dealt with direct threats (37.4%) and inmate-reported cases of discrimination (31.3%). The remainder of cases dealt with government, military, and school-related issues.

This year, LLL shifted the way it works with prisoner cases. We are now asking that inmates experiencing difficulties in their institution submit their chaplain's name and contact information so that we may be in direct contact about religious accommodation. By working directly with the chaplain, we can address the needs of all Pagans at the institution rather than merely advocating for one specific individual.

The LLL Administrative Team, consisting of Executive Director Rev. Selena Fox, Deputy Director Rev. Minerva Duggan, and Case Manager Rev. Casey Pope, meets weekly to staff cases. Further information about LLL is available on our website at www.ladylibertyleague.org. To report a case of discrimination, please fill out the online Help Request Form available on LLL's website. The LLL Administrative Team can be reached by email to LLL@circlesanctuary.org. Be sure to follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LadyLibertyLeague and Twitter at [@ladylibertyleag](https://twitter.com/ladylibertyleag).





Circle Cemetery 25th Anniversary

Circle Cemetery, established in 1995, is one of the first Green cemeteries in North America and the first to be established in Wisconsin. Circle Cemetery is owned and operated by Circle Sanctuary, a federally recognized private non-profit religious organization serving Nature Spirituality practitioners worldwide since 1974.

Circle Cemetery is the final resting place for remains of members of Circle Sanctuary and of others who share Circle Sanctuary's values of respecting Nature and living in harmony with the natural world. It is the first national Nature Spirituality church cemetery in the United States.

The twenty-acre Circle Cemetery is part of the 200-acre Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve, located in the Driftless Bioregion of southwestern Wisconsin. Circle Cemetery includes a wooded natural burying ground for full body burials, ridgetop cremains burial area, restored prairie cremains scattering area, and ceremonial Stone Circle. A mowed parking area is located adjacent to the burying ground and restored prairie.

As of Samhain 2020, Circle Cemetery has memorials and remains for 58 people. Most are cremated remains buried and marked by gravestones in the ridgetop, the original part of the cemetery. Ten are full body burials in the burying ground. Ashes of six people have been scattered in the prairie.



Selena placing flowers on Elizabeth Moran's gravestone.

Circle Cemetery Timeline

- 1974:** Circle Sanctuary founded.
- 1978:** Circle Sanctuary incorporated as non-profit religious organization in Wisconsin.
- 1979:** Circle Sanctuary starts process to find and purchase rural land as its home, including an area to serve as a cemetery.
- 1980:** Circle Sanctuary receives federal 501(c)(3) tax exempt church status. Circle Sanctuary Community cemetery visioning discussions begin.
- 1983:** Circle Sanctuary purchases and moves to its home, a 200 acre Nature sanctuary near Barneveld, Wisconsin, which is named Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve.

Circle Cemetery 25th Anniversary continued

1988: Circle Sanctuary receives church zoning for all 200 acres of its land.

1995: Circle Sanctuary finishes purchase of its land and receives title.

1995: Circle Cemetery is established as a Green Cemetery on a forested ridgetop at Circle Sanctuary land.

1996: Prairie restoration begins in the field adjacent to the original Circle Cemetery area.

2000: Burial of ashes begin at Cremains Point: Llynda Selby.

2004: Circle Cemetery begins its process of expanding to 20 acres in size in order to permit human full body natural burials.

2005: Circle Sanctuary makes application to the US Department of Veterans Affairs to have the Pentacle added to its list of emblems of belief that can be added to memorial markers it issues for deceased veterans.

2006: Circle Cemetery's Veterans Ridge begins with burial of cremains of US Army veteran Jerome Birnbaum: <https://pluralism.org/news/widows-wiccan-vets-dedicate-graves>

2007: The US Department of Veterans Affairs adds the Pentacle to its list of belief that can be included on its grave markers. Circle Cemetery and Arlington National Cemetery receive the first pentacle inscribed memorial markers issued by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. <https://www.au.org/church-state/june-2007-church-state/featured/pentacle-quest-success>

2007: Three markers are dedicated at Memorial Day at Circle Cemetery in a ceremony covered by public media: <https://womensenews.org/2007/04/wiccan-war-widows-win-their-sacred-burial-markers/>

2009: Circle Sanctuary Ministers section begun at ridgetop with the burial of Rev. Gloria Villanueva: <https://www.circlesanctuary.org/index.php/in-memorial/in-memorial-gloria-villanueva-1948-2008>



Ritual Mound at Circle Sanctuary Nature Preserve.

2009: Pagan Elders section established on ridgetop: Marion Weinstein: <https://www.circlesanctuary.org/index.php/in-memorial/in-memorial-marion-weinstein-1939-2009>

2010: Circle Cemetery becomes the first Green cemetery established in Wisconsin.

2010: Wisconsin State Journal publishes article: "Friends honor Wiccan with Halloween Burial" [https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/article_249d7369-dacc-5451-9e60-](https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/article_249d7369-dacc-5451-9e60-8c2c4b7d4a2b.html)

[8c2c4b7d4a2b.html](https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/article_249d7369-dacc-5451-9e60-8c2c4b7d4a2b.html)

2010: Wisconsin Public Television includes Circle Cemetery in a special report on Green cemeteries.

2011: Full body natural burials begin at Circle Cemetery's burying grounds: Nancy Yugo: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/journaltimes/name/nancy-lou-yugo-obituary?n=nancy-lou-yugo&pid=151004963>

2011: *Chicago Tribune* publishes article about Circle Cemetery and Green burial on October 31: "Wiccan Church honors Dead in Eco-friendly Cemetery" <https://www.chicagotribune.com/columns/ct-metric-trice-greencemetery-1031-20111031-column.html>

Circle Cemetery 25th Anniversary continued

2012: Circle Cemetery's Director Selena Fox participates in Green Burial Panel in Viroqua, Wisconsin: Part 1: <https://www.circlesanctuary.org/index.php/cemetery/circle-cemetery-in-the-news>

2013: Circle Cemetery becomes the nation's first Green cemetery taking part in the Wreaths Across America program. It is noted in media, including the local The Dodgeville Chronicle: <https://thedodgevillechronicle.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=8&ArticleID=4426&TM=19977.43>

2015: Circle Cemetery celebrates its 20th Anniversary.

2016: Circle Cemetery begins being listed in national & global Green Cemeteries directories, including US Funerals Online: <https://www.us-funerals.com/funeral-articles/directory-of-green-burial-sites-in-the-united-states.html#.X5MmSi9h0vo>

2017: Circle Cemetery has its first inscribed memorial bench installed and dedicated. Melissa Shovers aka Alexis Sparks.

2018: Circle Cemetery receives and dedicates its first Awen-inscribed memorial marker issued by the US Department of Veterans Affairs: Dan "Oakbear Moeller" <https://www.circlesanctuary.org/index.php/in-memorial/in-memorial-oakbear-d-2018>

2019: Robin "Beket" Arnhold, one of Circle Sanctuary's first members dies and is buried at the ridgetop during the Samhain Festival: <https://www.circlesanctuary.org/index.php/in-memorial/in-memorial-robin-beket-arnhold-d-2019>

2019: Circle Cemetery advisor & Circle Sanctuary minister Rev. Nora Cedarwind Young dies. Nora's memorial, ashes burial, & marker dedication takes place at the Samhain Festival: <https://www.circlesanctuary.org/index.php/in-memorial/in-memorial-nora-cedarwind-young-d-2019>

2020: First cremains burial during the pandemic: Elizabeth Ellyenne Moran.



Wreaths Across America at Circle Cemetery.

2020: First full body burial during the pandemic: John David "Dave" Erickson: <https://www.circlesanctuary.org/index.php/in-memorial/in-memorial-david-erickson-d-2020>

2020: Circle Cemetery celebrates its 25th Anniversary with podcasts and other online events.

- Circle Cemetery Memories: [https://www.blogtalkradio.com/csnp/2020/09/24/nature-spirituality-](https://www.blogtalkradio.com/csnp/2020/09/24/nature-spirituality-with-selena-fox--circle-cemetery-memories)

[with-selena-fox--circle-cemetery-memories](https://www.blogtalkradio.com/csnp/2020/09/24/nature-spirituality-with-selena-fox--circle-cemetery-memories)

- Circle Cemetery & Greening Life's End: <https://www.blogtalkradio.com/csnp/2020/10/11/nature-mystic-with-selena-fox--circle-cemetery-greening-lifes-end>

2020: Circle Cemetery will take part in Wreaths Across America nationwide wreath-laying event: <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/17651/overview/?relatedId=0>

Circle Community Connections 2020-2021

Festivals

online & when safe, in person

2020

Yule: Saturday,
December 19
Longest Night: Sunday,
December 20

2021

Imbolc: Saturday,
January 30
Welcome Spring: Saturday,
March 20
Earth Day: Saturday,
April 24
Beltane: weekend of
April 30-May 2
Welcome Summer:
Saturday, June 12
Pagan Spirit Gathering:
June 20-27
Green Spirit: weekend of
July 30-August 1
Sacred Fire Circle:
September 2-6
Welcome Fall: Saturday,
September 18
Samhain: weekend of
October 29-31
Yule: Saturday,
December 18
Longest Night: Monday,
December 20

Full Moon Circles

online at 7pm central

2020

Monday, November 30
Tuesday, December 29

2021

Thursday, January 28
Saturday, February 27

Sunday, March 28
Monday, April 26
Wednesday, May 26
Thursday, June 24
Friday, July 23
Sunday, August 22
Monday, September 20
Tuesday, October 19
Friday, November 19
Friday, December 17

Periodicals

Circle Times – monthly e-bulletin with news & events updates.

Circle Sanctuary News – in print & digital quarterly newsletter for members.

Circle Sanctuary Calendar – yearly in print wall calendar.

Pagan Spirit Gathering Program Guide – yearly in print guide available in June to PSG participants.

Circle Sanctuary Annual Report – yearly in print & online summary of our work, released at our Annual Meeting on the Saturday of our Samhain Festival.

Social Media

Facebook Pages

Circle Sanctuary
Community
Lady Liberty League
Circle Healing Circle
Circle Cemetery
Pagan Military Association
CSNPodcasts
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
PSG Cronos

Twitter

@CircleSanctuary
@Pagan_Spirit
@LadyLibertyLeag
@Selena_Fox

Instagram

Circle Sanctuary
Pagan Spirit Gathering
Selena Fox

CSNP: Internet Radio Ministries

Circle Sanctuary Network
Podcasts (CSNP)

Nature Mystic with Selena Fox

Every Sunday at
6pm central
Workshops & Rituals,
encore broadcasts

Lunatic Mondays with Laura Gonzalez

Second & Fourth
Mondays (in English) at
7pm central
Lunes Lunaticos en Espanol
(in Spanish)
First Mondays in Spanish at
7pm central
Interviews & Discussions

Circle Talk with Debra Rose

First & Third Tuesdays at
7pm central
Interviews & Discussions

Nature Spirituality with Selena Fox

Every Wednesday at 7pm central
New Workshops & Rituals
Also livestreamed via SelenaFoxUpdates Facebook

Moon Magic with Jeanet & David Ewing

Two Thursdays monthly at
7pm central
Workshops, Rituals & Discussions

Pagans of the World with Laura Gonzalez & Others

Paganos del Mundo
(in Spanish)
Pagaos do Mundo
(in Portuguese)
Every Saturday at
6pm central
Interviews & Discussions

Other Events

We also have a variety of classes, workshops, sanctuary days, and other special events throughout the year. More details online at www.circlesanctuary.org

Our Circle Sanctuary Members 2019-2020

Leadership Circle

Lisa Chavez
Richard Wachenheim

Benefactor

Blake Allen
Brad Allen
Rhianna Allen
Amanda Bahnson
Meredith 'Bee Lady'
Beckman
Dan Berger
Susun Berger
Ana Blechschmidt
Jim Blechschmidt
Mary Bobiak
Eric Bolden
Jake Bradley
Chip Brown
Minerva Duggan
Messina Duggan
Katrina Galle
Suzanne Krall
Laurie Larson
Aviel Lynch
Ruth McCabe
Nate Metrick
Debby Morris
Heather Ockler
Georgette Paxton
Robert Paxton
Judith Quittner Seizys
Dave Sassman
Gail Sassman
Anaan Sapphire
Cern Green
Dan Stewart
Sharon Stewart
Jesse Wilson

Sustainer

Lee Allen
Robert & Xochitl
Barnes
Chris Beld
Michelle Boshears

Steven Boshears
Mary Ellen Chrispell
Kathleen A. Dale
Linda Daly
Tereesa Daul
Harry & Sheri Dorman
Stephanie Edwards
Eric Eldritch
David Ewing
Jeanet Ewing
Guy Frost
Debra Rose
Kenneth Goze
Cindy Gumucio
Dante Gumucio
Pete Heil
Andromeda Hightower
Tristan Hightower
Jerrie Hildebrand
Kim Huffaker
Val Juntunen
Jamie Kennedy
David Landre
Bob Lauer
Eric Lingenfelter
Rebecca Lingenfelter
Dree Amandi
Betty Pound
Calypso Skelley
Patrick Slavens
David Steingass
Anji Wieserman
Derek Wieserman
Ron Zorn

Supporter

Clementina Avines
Andrew Bear
Char Bear
Michelle Cassella
Caroline Clarin
Terrill Dent
Ostara SkyWolf
Larry Edwards
Shelli H. English
Jennifer Enright-Ford
Bev Evans

Caren Kyri
Fitzsimmons
Doris Forrest
Royal Freeman
Jan Gerstner
River Higginbotham
Mary Hirsch
Lance Hoagland
Michael Houle
Grace Kilpatrick
Kirk Leach
Jessica LeClair
Jeff Levenson
Bob Levenson
Dana Lusk
Amy Lutzke
Stevie McCullough
Lisa Milakovich
Stacey Miller
Susan Missett-King
Mae Moon
Amanda Neitz
Col Neitz
Tyler Neitz
Jonathan Norcross
Michael O'Leary
John O'Neill
Moonowl Pellegrino
John Peterson
Casey Pope
Mari Powers
Kim Price
River Ramamurthy
Bri Ravenwolf
Sheril Raymond
Jen Read
Kevin Roddy
Natasha Ruiz
Dennis Rullo
Eliza Rullo
Jewels Russell
Alison Saichek
Amara Salyers
David Salyers
Sharon Salyers
Geri Schrab
Cassandra Shawley

Christopher Shawley
Rebecca Shawley
Adalia Shchurovsky
Lisa Snipe
Aurora Light
Vince Ver Kuilen
Meg Versteeg
Mickey/Gaius White
Elizabeth Wolf
Camille Yario
Faeryn Ælla

Member

Lisa Anderson
Tiffany Andes
Barbara Andree
Bren Antrim
Andrew Armstrong
Shannon Backhaus
Liza Barbarello
Andrews
John Beasley
Tanya Belanger
Erin Bell
Emily Berarducci
Katya Berger
Sarah Best
Jules Boas
Lesla Vergne
Kimberly Bottenfield
Ember Firewing
Kristin Bowers
Emily Brammerson
Ann Brummer
Christina Buendia
Jeffrey Burklow
Kim Campbell
Lorelei Boadicea
Tomyris
Christabelle S.
Carpenter
Dennis Carpenter
Jo-Ann Carter
Jamie Clemons
Celeste Coleman
Sandra Costa
Kimberly Covell

Jess Cox
Sarah Crane
Jim Crocker-Lakness
Debra Crowe-Vitale
Bob Cuneo
Denise Curry
Steven Curtin
Lori Dake
Bella Dare
Sky Cat Dare
Raymond Decker
Carol Demaio
Cat DeMinico
Trish Deneen
Tammie Denholm
Elspeth Depledge-
Braley
Elizabeth Deschenes
Emmylou Dimond
Linda Donner
Umarthna Doran
Sasha Drake
Florence Edwards-
Miller
Norma J. Eiler-Bouck
Tanya Evans
Cal Fischer
Selena Fox
Julie Foxhoven
Jacki Fredericks
Julieanna Frost
Ginna Galliher
Jennifer Gilbert
Carrie Gill
Liz Gillisse
Andrea Gilman
Laura Gonzalez
Niki Grattan
Donna Grebas
Bear Woman
Leah Haefner
Emily Rose Haga
Katherine Hallgren
Paula Hamelik
Molly Hanson
Lady Zoe Grace
Rich Harrington

Our Circle Sanctuary Members 2019-2020 continued

John Harrison	Aleta Kieler	Trevor Nelson	Sebastoan Schlosser	Candee Wadsworth
Kirk Haveman	Brad Kimball	Wendy Nichols	Nikki Schmiedlin	Matthew Walden
Elizabeth Herbert	Rita Kindle	Cynthia Nolan	Nicholas Sea	Selchie Waldon
Barbara Hernandez	Meren King	Bear Woman	Peter Sedlak III	Lori Wangerin
Julee Higginbotham	Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick	Jim Olsen	Gina Senarighi	Dale Weaver
Pat Hippert	Megan Kohtz	Peter Silverman &	Rae Senarighi	Leigh Weidner
Adrienne Hirt	Jane Kurtz	Pat Lane	Will Sharkey	Richard Woods
Debra Hoffman	RoxAnne Lacombe	Julie Payne	Tina Sharp	Karen Yerby
Sandy Hopkins	Amanda Lane	Sarah Peel	Monica Siegfried	McKenzie Zeiss
Pandora Horton	Renee Wolf Lawton	Cairielle Crow	Haley Sisco	Mandie Zopp
Margaret Hoyt	Cassandra Lewis	Jade Peterson	M.Shel Skau	
Ashley Hudson	David Linton	Ben Philippi	Eva Skye	DRGL
Beth Hurley	Sylvia Linton	Dorothy Portell	Michael B. Smith	Susan DeHaan
Maria Ingraham	Jim Lord	Tina Porter	Rachael Smith	Jessica Eide
Jeremy Jachnke	Tiffany Lowe	Ceora Powers Hull	Jolanta Soltis	Mia Morrison
Kathleen Jackson	Lorraine Luebben	Crow Moon	Paul Stackpole	
Jeremy Jaehnke	Jason Mankey	Amy Randall	Rachel Stewart	Active Duty
Anne Jameson	Holly Leona	Daniel Recktenwald	Trish Freyja Rose	Daniel Colombo Verni
Amy Jensen	Shana Marshall	Cassie Redmond	Sudbeck	
Loren Jeske	Zenobia Martin	Lorraine Reynolds	Holly Sullivan	Student
Ashayla Johnson	Duane Marxen	Beth Richardson	Anaya Sutton	Dana Berger
Danny Johnson-Schiff	Shannon Mayfield	Viniko Richmond	Paul Syck	Ali Cline
Donna Johnston	Aodha McGee	Laura Rickard	Lloyd Sykes	Daryl Daniels
James Jones	Katie McKendry-Grove	Francesca Rivera	P.A. Tanner	Amanda Eck
Andrea Jordan-	Randy Merrick	Korianne Robinson	Astrea Taylor	Kayley Hawkins
Trautman	Judith Michels	Jeff Rodman	Lis Testa	Deer Wolf
Sharon Judy	Kristin Miller	Amy Rohrer	Mike Tomasek	Casimir Mansell
James Jufer	Jo Millgate	Spark Rohret	Angela Tousey	River Corvina
Casey Kalicki	Kelley Moran	Deborah Root-White	Winter Tredinnick	Vicki Mitchell
Sherlyn Kearns	Corey Mork	Deb Runyon	Morgana Turner	Nathan Parry
Bryan Kelleher	David Mueller	Kathy Schaumann	Kristol Mist Unterseher	Angela Stevens
Tracey Kelly	Bo Nelson	Padraig Schieving	Diane Villano	Alycen Waltein

A Special Thanks to Our Members!

You are the heart and soul of Circle Sanctuary
and we couldn't do it without each and every one of you.

Thank you so much!
Wishing you all bright blessings at this Samhaintide
and throughout the new year!

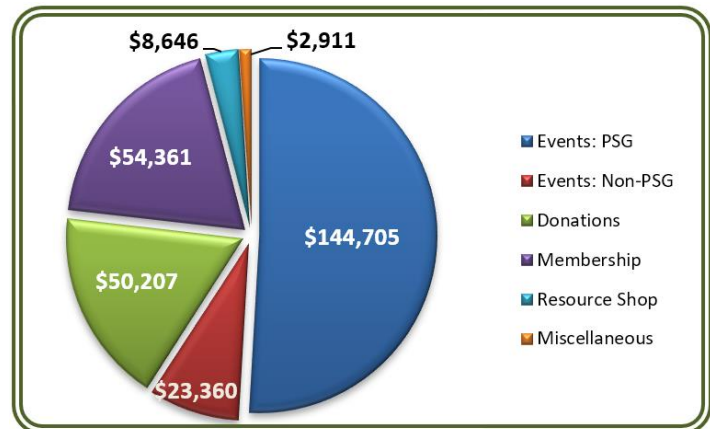


Circle Sanctuary, Inc. 2019 Financial Summary

INCOME

Most of Circle Sanctuary's revenue in 2019 came from **Event Registrations** (59%), from **Donations** (18%), and from **Membership Dues** (19%).

Circle's Membership program has grown to provide over **\$54,000** to support Circle's ongoing work. This is a very important part of Circle Sanctuary's financial stability. Donations included a substantial bequest, as well as a generous donation to purchase a new furnace and A/C for the farmhouse.



PSG 2019 brought in **\$120,252**, all of it in calendar year 2019 as registration opened in January. Income from PSG 2019 at Hannon's Camp America went up by **18%** compared to PSG 2018 at Tall Tree, while PSG 2019 expenses went up 21%. The net gain to Circle by putting on PSG 2019 was **\$29,512**. In Q4 2019, Circle brought in an additional **\$24,453** in PSG 2020 registrations.

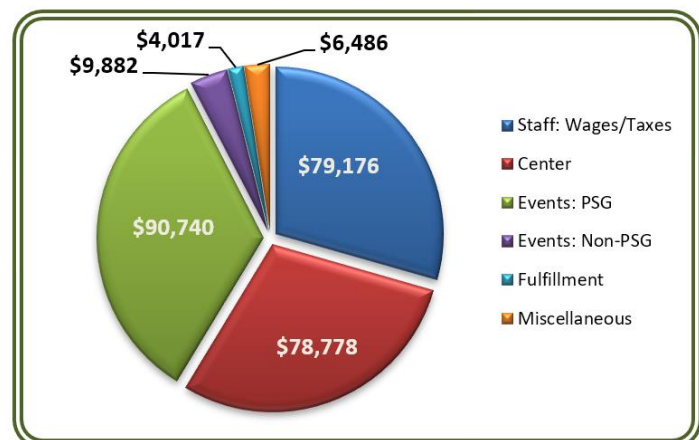
In 2019, Circle Sanctuary gathered in **\$284,190**, which is an increase of **15.2%** over 2018. Non-PSG events shrank by **26%**, but those were offset by consistent Membership income and somewhat concentrated PSG income.

EXPENSES

In 2019, Circle spent a total of **\$262,593**, which is an increase of **15%** over 2018 -- leaving a surplus of **\$21,597**.

Most of Circle's expenses went into three areas:

- **Center** (30%): Day-to-day operation of Circle Sanctuary's office and facilities. Center costs increased by **57%** over 2018, as Circle put a new furnace & A/C unit in the farmhouse, did bat remediation, added an AED and bought a new projector, and did further road work.
- **Events** (38%): expenses of running festivals and other events organized by Circle Sanctuary, including PSG. Event costs increased by **16%** compared to 2018, owing to larger PSG costs that were more than offset by gains.
- **Staff** (30%): Wages, taxes and benefits for the staff members employed in 2019. This declined by **8.7%** from 2018, as Circle continued to reduce paid staff hours.



NOTEWORTHY FIGURES

- **Pagan Spirit Gathering** (PSG) remained Circle Sanctuary's largest single source of revenue in 2019, providing **51%** of all money received. PSG 2019 by itself performed better than the prior two years, as well as any of the years at Camp Zoe.
- **Membership Dues** were stable, and **Donations** were unusually strong. A greatly-appreciated bequest from Beket's estate of **\$19,541** provided **90%** of 2019's surplus. A generous donation paid for the new furnace and A/C unit for the farmhouse.
- If one considers only Staff and ordinary Center expenses, Circle requires **\$354/day** to finance operations at 2019 levels. By contrast, **Unrestricted Donations** and **Membership Dues** came in at a rate of **\$246/day**. In 2009, those donations were only **\$46/day**: in the past ten years, Circle made significant steps toward reducing its reliance on PSG and on-site festivals.

Circle Sanctuary, Inc. 2020 Special Statement

IMPACT OF COVID-19

Imbolc 2020 was the last festival held in-person on Circle land, and the March Full Moon Circle was the last event. From then on, all events went fully online including Pagan Spirit Gathering 2020 – and all our established trends were no more.

PSG

On April 30th, we cancelled PSG 2020. Registrations had dried up by March, as community members absorbed the realities of COVID-19. Circle had received **\$64,144** in PSG 2020 registrations (**\$24,453** in 2019), and we offered registrants the options of full refunds, gift certificates for future years, or partial or full donations of registration fees.

Circle had no venue deposits, and PSG 2020 expenses including refunds totaled **\$20,004**. An additional **\$19,512** in certificates for future PSGs were issued. With help from a t-shirt sales drive and MANY generous donations, Circle gained **\$24,628** from PSG 2020.

Regular Festivals & Resource Shop

Between January 1 and September 30, 2019, Circle took in **\$15,140** on regular festival registrations and another **\$5,452** in Resource Shop sales. In the same period of 2020, Circle took in **\$1,053** in festivals and **\$1,606** in Resource Shop sales. These ever-important endeavors have collapsed.

Membership

Between January 1 and September 30, 2019, Circle received **\$36,555** in Membership dues; in the same period of 2020, Circle received **\$34,028**. Circle has brought in some new Memberships by soliciting from a broader online audience, while other Memberships have declined or lapsed owing to COVID-related economic circumstances.

Atypical Income and Expenses

In 2020, Circle received bequests of **\$45,231**

and received **\$10,655** through a fully-forgiven Payroll Protection Plan loan. On the other side of the ledger, Circle spent **\$19,031** to replace the farmhouse septic system: the old mid-1950s system had failed, and we were under a June deadline to replace it.

Reduction in Paid Staff

With Emily's transition out of the office in September to focus on full-time parenting, we opted to fill her role with volunteer labor. Rev. Sharon is anchoring the office operations, with the help of Evelyn who is handling Memberships, Rev. Casey is continuing to lead social media endeavors, and Rev. Bob is handling IT, buildings and grounds maintenance.

OVERALL PICTURE

Pandemic or no, Circle still has the normal gamut of expenses associated with holding the office and land. Heating, power, and sanitation costs are somewhat less, property taxes are still around \$16k/year, we still have a copier on lease, our online service bills have increased modestly, et cetera.

Circle will survive. We have no debt, we have a strong Membership program, we have distributed the office work to volunteers, and we are maintaining the land and facilities we have built up over decades.

Our interpretation of "community" includes our Elders and those with health conditions that place them at high risk, and until COVID mitigation efforts lead us to believe we can responsibly gather as a community in full, we will not open registration for an in-person PSG 2021 or hold in-person events.

Those components of Circle Sanctuary's financial life, which have always substantially underwritten the rest of the church's work, are on hold: under current projections, Circle will run out of money in the third quarter of 2021. That outcome, however, is avoidable with your help.

Please Donate!

Give on-line at <https://www.circlesanctuary.org/index.php/organization/donating-to-circle>

Donations may also be made via check or money order payable to Circle, and mailed to PO Box 9, Barneveld WI 53507. Thank you!

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 2019-2020 Annual Report

Circle Sanctuary: circle@circlesanctuary.org www.circlesanctuary.org

Executive Director & Senior Minister: Rev. Selena Fox

Board of Directors: Rev. Selena Fox, Dr. Dennis Carpenter, Rev. S. L. Edwards, Rev. Bob Paxton

Office Administrator: Emily Brammerson; Office Coordinator: Rev. Sharon Stewart

Membership Coordinators: Emily Brammerson; Rev. Sharon Stewart & Evelyn Henn

Financial Report: Revs. Bob Paxton & Dr. Dennis Carpenter

Festivals Manager, PSG Manager & Facilities Upgrade Coordinator: Rev. Sharon Stewart

Social Media Coordinator: Casey Pope; Archivist: Robin Umber

Publications Graphic Design & Production: Judith Quittner Seizys

Writers : Revs. Selena Fox, Minerva Duggan, Casey Pope, Bob Paxton, Sharon Stewart

Photographers : Revs. Selena Fox, Bob Paxton, Dennis Carpenter & Judith Quittner Seizys

Web Support: Rev. Bob Paxton, Rev. David Ewing & Raven Lyons