

2024 Annual Report

Cultural Archive of Modern Paganism Full version available on our website

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Mission Statement

The Cultural Archive of Modern Paganism exists to preserve, interpret, and promote the history and culture of the contemporary Pagan community as it exists in the United States. Through the acquisition of historical evidence and ongoing research, we will document our community and its unique cultural and spiritual nature. Our collections will be held in a digital repository, available in its entirety to researchers, with curated informative and educational materials made available to the public through our website. In these ways we seek to promote the discipline of Pagan studies and add to our community's sense of identity by providing access to the foundations of its past.

Access to the PAST creates the foundation for DREAMS of the FUTURE

Letter from the Board

CAMP is a long anticipated endeavor of the Pagan community manifesting at the time and place that the right skill sets, and technology, have come together to make it possible. We are a small, yet dedicated, group of people focused on preserving the history and culture of the community we all love. By supporting the mission and staff of CAMP the board can contribute in ways that we would not be able to as individuals. From humble roots we are growing CAMP into an organization that will serve Pagans for years to come.

Access to the PAST creates the foundation for DREAMS of the FUTURE

Board of Directors

Tim Knight - President

Mike Kirk – Treasurer

Justin Stein – Secretary

Maev LeBow - Project Manager

2024 Completed Work

Creation of Collections Management Policies

The purpose of this project, which began October 2023, was to develop and formalize the policies required to govern archival activity in accordance with professional standards. These policies will enable CAMP to accept new additions to the collection, conduct initial processing of acquisitions, manage all archival holdings, and begin to grant greater access to their materials.

Collection of Oral Histories of the Wiccan Church of Minnesota This project began in early 2024 and focused on collecting oral histories of at least 19 current and past members of WiCoM to document the story of this significant organization. Using the Methods and template developed in a previous project, this was the first in a series of oral history projects to record the lineage of the Twin Cities contemporary pagan community.



Both projects were made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Ongoing Work

CAMP seeks to document and preserve the history and stories of Pagan communities and individuals involved in those communities across the United States. In line with our new collections policies and with the guidance of the advisory committee it has been decided that CAMP's archival collections will be primarily arranged by state. Using our established collecting areas the Minnesota Phased Development Plan was created to lay out the next 5 years of archival projects and community digitization priorities for our state. As we grow a similar plan will be developed for each state or regional community.

To accomplish our goals the following preliminary collecting priorities for each community were identified:

- Personal papers of individuals involved in pagan communities.
- Oral histories with community elders.
- Organization records of community groups and churches.
- Reference materials, biographical data, and ephemera.
- Publications by and about community members and organizations.

Community Digitization Priorities for 2025-2030:

- Older individuals and elders with failing health.
- Historically underrepresented individuals in communities, including but not limited to Indigenous, Black, Latino, Asian, LGBTQ+, women, veterans, and people living with disabilities.
- Individuals and groups located in rural areas.
- Recordings on fragile media, including audio cassette tapes and VHS tapes.
- Materials related to significant activism efforts.
- Born-digital material, including organization and personal files, web pages, blog posts, and events advertised on social media.

In Development

Oral Histories

CAMP will continue to explore the many facets of the Minnesota Pagan community through a series of oral history projects. We intend to pursue the history of Druidry and Heathenry in Minnesota. Examining these new areas will expand and diversify the understanding of our local community and its connections on a greater scale.

Additionally, CAMP has started a program of individual oral histories of significant community members who either would not fit well into a larger project, or we feel is time sensitive.

Lady Aura Collection

Lady Aura is a long-standing member of the Twin Cities Pagan community, a member of one of its oldest covens, and an early member of the Minnesota Church of the Wicca. She has collected significant material of her experience in the Pagan community.

Outside of Minnesota

CAMP's advisory committee is in the process of identifying communities outside of MN to begin creating preservation projects with. Each community will serve as the starting point for a phased development plan for their state encompassing oral histories and acquisition of archival material.

Looking to the Future

CAMP has been fortunate in our ability to grow and accomplish our goals in no small part due to the generous donations from individuals and the support of Legacy Amendment grants through the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). In 2025 we will continue to pursue grant funding for projects from MNHS and operational support through building relationships within the extended Pagan community and charitable foundations. This will enable CAMP to build the infrastructure needed to preserve the history of our community. Our top fundraising priorities are to acquire digital storage media and build a portable digitization lab. Combined with our basic operating expenses our fundraising goal for 2025 has been set at \$10,000.

Contact Us

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