

Newyddion o Gymdeithas Dewi Sant

St. David's Society News

JANUARY/IONAWR 2018

Volume 38, Issue 1

St. David's Day Banquet

Saturday, March 3, 11:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Radisson Hotel Roseville

2540 North Cleveland Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113



11:30 a.m. – Register

12:00 p.m. – Welcome and Announcements

12:15–1:00 p.m. – Meal service

1:15 p.m. – Program

3:00 p.m. – Festivities end

Registration form is on YELLOW insert. Registrations must reach us by **Fri., Feb. 23.**

If you are reading issue online, be sure to print your registration form... a separate document. The registration form can also be found on our web page: www.stdavidsofmn.org.

Menu details

1. Grilled 6 oz. **Sirloin**: Caramelized onion jus, served with garlic mashed potatoes and fresh vegetables.

2. Grilled Atlantic **Salmon**: Char-grilled salmon fillet with pickle pepper relish, served with cauliflower gratin.

3. Roasted **Vegetable Wellington**: Flaky crust wrapped around roasted vegetables with a lemon basil glaze, served with quinoa.

All entrees are served with garden salad, roll, dessert, and coffee or tea.

Children's Meal (age 10 and under) — Chicken Fingers, tater tots, and fruit: \$12

The Radisson Hotel is located on Cleveland Ave., along Hwy. 35W, just north of Hwy 36. Use the Co. Rd. C exit off Hwy. 35W. Then, take Cleveland south to the hotel. There is ample parking in the hotel's parking lot around the building. The meeting space is a short distance from the main entrance.

Meet Dilys Elwyn-Edwards on her centenary

The 2018 St. David's Day Banquet will celebrate the work of Dilys Elwyn-Edwards, a Welsh composer who was born 100 years ago. Elwyn-Edwards was known for her melodious art songs in Welsh and English. Born in Dolgellau in 1918, Elwyn-Edwards was a tutor at Bangor University. Her work is performed frequently in Wales by such singers as Rebecca Evans, Gwyn Hughes Jones, Rhys Meirion and Jeremy Huw Williams. Bryn Terfel and Charlotte Church included her music in their recordings.

Sonomento, MacPhail's premier adult chamber choir and its fine soloists, will perform for us March 3. They will feature some of the songs they will be performing in July at the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales.

Call for singers: From July 1-12, 2018, the MacPhail premier choral group, Sonomento, will tour the British Isles and compete at the Eisteddfod Musical Festival in Wales. The all-inclusive tour cost, including airfare, is \$3,765.00 per person (double occupancy) and scholarship aid is available to anyone with financial need. Tour rehearsals begin on Monday nights from March through May, 2018.

☆ **New Location**

☆ **Same Low Price**

☆ **Good Food**

☆ **Vital Program**

☆ **Meet new Welsh friends.**

INSIDE:

- News of the St. David's Society Foundation;
- Report on the Holiday Tea;
- Report on recital by Jeremy Huw Williams;
- Membership form (check your mailing label);
- St. David's Luncheon Reservation form (**yellow**).

From President Janice Barbee

Please renew your membership in the Society if you have not already done so. Membership fees are crucial to cover the costs of renting space and equipment, paying stipends to performers, and for producing this newsletter. Your mailing label will tell you if your membership fee is due. If the date is incorrect, please let us know.

USE THE FORM ON PAGE 3 TO RENEW.

Be sure to invite family members to the St. David's Day banquet. It is a good way for families to learn about and appreciate their heritage! Use the enclosed YELLOW INSERT to register for as many guests as you wish.

The Society is looking for places to show movies about Wales or produced in Wales. If you know of a place that has a large screen TV and plenty of seating (for at least 25 people), please contact Janice Barbee at janicegwb@yahoo.com.

Please let us know of any event or resource that would interest our members, and we will put it on the website. Contact Janice Barbee at janicegwb@yahoo.com.

Update on the St. David's Society Foundation

The St. David's Society of Minnesota Foundation began operating last year under new leadership. Don Anderson had led the work of the Foundation since its inception in 1991. He left a legacy of careful stewardship and thoughtful awards to promote the Welsh heritage of the St. David's members.

With Don's death and Mae Anderson's retirement as Treasurer in 2016, the St. David's Society's Board appointed Bob Minish as President and Ron Adams as Treasurer. Betty Kinsey continues as Secretary. She has served in that role since the Foundation began. Those three also comprise the board of directors of the Foundation. Since it began, the Foundation has obtained its funds from St. David's Society's members, either through donations or memorial gifts. At December 31, 2017, the total assets of the Foundation were \$8,701.

Until the recent "Great Recession," the Foundation was able to obtain sufficient income from interest on its various bank certificates of deposit to make awards and grants requested by members and others with worthwhile projects. However, in the current financial environment, the Foundation Board decided to invest the majority of the Foundation's assets in a mutual fund that historically has paid dividends at a much higher rate than current interest rates on certificates of deposit. We expect to use only the dividends to fund grants from the Foundation. Consequently, we do not expect that fluctuations in the value of the mutual fund will have any effect upon the ability of the Foundation to make grants.

The only grant we have made since the change in leadership was \$400 that was used to help pay travel expenses so that Jeremy Huw Williams could include the Twin Cities as one of the venues for his concert tour to the U. S. We thought that the opportunity for members of the St. David's Society to hear this great Welsh performer would be a good use of the Foundation's funds. We look forward to future opportunities for the Foundation to enhance the enjoyment of their Welsh heritage by members of the Society. We are also likely to

Thanks from Sally Evans

Dear Board and Society Members:

As many of you know, I passed the Minnesota Uniform Bar Exam, and have been sworn in as a member of the Minnesota Bar. Betty Kinsey's greetings are always lovely, yet I will especially treasure the Society's note received shortly after I received the good news because it brings to mind the steady interest in my progress, and the many words of confidence, support and encouragement needed as I prepared to sit for the exam. My new focus is landing full-time, permanent employment as a Minnesota attorney. I look forward to having more time to spend with you all as we move into the New Year.

Diolch yn fawr i chi i gyd! / Thank you all from the bottom of my grateful heart!

Sally

Another card Betty Kinsey sent recently was one to Dorothy Peterson, mother of Jean Greenwood.

Dorothy celebrated her 98th birthday this month!

continue to grant scholarships for members, particularly those who are very active with the Society, to attend such activities as the North American Festival of Wales or Cwrs Cymraeg. However, our main focus for making grants will be to obtain the greatest benefit to the Society and its members.

The ability of the Foundation to award such grants will be enhanced if we receive donations from the members of the Society. Both the Society and the Foundation are worthy recipients of donations from members of the Society. Both organizations are classified by the IRS as 501 (c)(3) organizations. For the long term success of both organizations we encourage you to support both with your donations.

Holiday Tea offered enjoyment and conversation

On Sat., Dec. 9, the annual Holiday Tea was held at University Lutheran Church of Hope in Minneapolis.

After a welcome by President Janice Barbee, the program of poetry, story, and song began. Readings were given by Mary Mergenthal, Richard Rames, Janice Barbee, Holly Windle, Trilby Busch, Jean Greenwood, and Donald Barbee.

A highlight was the presentation of "Carol of the Night," music by David Evan Thomas, text by Jean Greenwood. It had been the winning carol for the 2017 "Welcome Christmas" concerts by Vocal Essence Choir.

Ar Hyd y Nos ["All Through the Night"] and Nos Galan ["Deck the Halls"] were sung. The program concluded with the round "Christmas is Coming," sung by the full group. Local composer and Society member David Evan Thomas served more than ably at the piano throughout the program.

About 25 members attended and Hywel Taff Roberts of Winona, Minn., was welcomed. Those who wished, told stories about Christmases past or about their past travels.

In the church parlor, in addition to treats, sweet harp music by member Esmé Evans also invited all to conversation and relaxation.

Membership Application or Membership Renewal form

St. David's Society of Minnesota

www.stdavidsofmn.org www.facebook.com/stdavidsofmn

PLEASE PRINT

Name (for family memberships, please include all names)

Address (city, state, zip) _____

Primary phone number _____

E-Mail Address _____

_____ Please save postage.

Notify me by email when the newsletter is available and I will view it online.

Membership Categories and 2017-'18 rates

- _____ Single Annual (July 1–June 30) \$25
- _____ Partner / Family Annual (July 1–June 30) \$40
- _____ Lifetime Membership: (one-time payment) \$225

Checks payable to ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF MN.

Sally Evans, Treasurer
10027 Portland Ave. S.
Bloomington, MN 55420

Send questions to: stpaulsally@gmail.com



October recital by Welsh baritone endowed in large part by gift from Foundation

Welsh baritone Jeremy Huw Williams and his accompanist Paula Fan performed an enjoyable recital on Oct. 30, 2017, at Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, as part of the Guest Artist Series of the University of Minnesota Vocal Arts Community.

A generous gift by the St. David's Society Foundation paying their travel costs to the Twin Cities on their tour of the U.S. made it possible for anyone wishing to attend to do so for free. A gift from the St. David's Society covered other costs. Jeremy fondly remembered singing in Minneapolis in 1999, when NAFOW (North American Festival of Wales) first visited here.

His October program began with the nine short songs of "La bonne chanson" (text Paul Verlaine), Opus 61, by Gabriel Fauré.

"Du bist die Zukunft," text by Rainer Maria Rilke, arrangement by local composer and Society member David Evan Thomas, ended the first segment of the recital.

After the intermission, Jeremy told the audience about Welsh composer Grace Williams (1906–1977), generally regarded as Wales's most notable female composer. He sang

her "My Last Duchess" (text, Robert Browning) and later her arrangement of the Welsh folk song "Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn." Included in that set was "Heard in a Violent Ward" (text, John Clare; arrangement by David Evan Thomas).

Rather than just a single encore, he responded to audience approval with more Welsh folk songs, including "Y Gwydd" [The Loom] and "Wings of the Morning" (Psalm 139), both sung in Welsh and both arranged by David Evan Thomas.

Williams and Fan ended the delightful evening with the familiar "Ar Hyd Y Nos" [All Through the Night], using the lovely arrangement of Franz Joseph Haydn.

The Society members who attended were very pleased. Their exuberant clapping brought the performers back again and again for more Welsh. One member was heard to say, "I'm very glad I came!"

The St. David's Society hosted the post-concert dinner for Mr. Williams and Ms. Fan, and Society members and others in attendance gave generously, allowing an additional donation from the Society to further offset concert expenses.

3425 Wisconsin Ave. N.
Crystal, MN 55425

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Please note expiration date below.
If it's 2018 or earlier, it's time to renew using form on back of this label.

Coming events:

Saturday, Feb. 3, 11:30 a.m. – Well-Read Dragons – Davanni's, Shoreview, Lexington south of Cub.

Discussion this month on *The Long Dry* by Cynan Jones. Direct questions to dae29cj@gmail.com

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2:00 p.m. – Welsh language and conversation – 2393 Bourne Ave., St. Paul, 55108.

Direct questions to llawryf@yahoo.com

Sunday, Feb. 18, 4–6:30 p.m. – Pub gathering for food and conversation – Merlins Rest, 3601 E. Lake St., Mpls 55406

Direct questions to ilene.dawn@gmail.com or www.stdavidsofmn.org

Saturday, March 3, 11:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. – St. David's Day Luncheon –

Radisson Hotel Roseville, 2540 N. Cleveland Ave., Roseville 55113.

REGISTER BY FRI., FEB. 23, USING YELLOW FORM INSIDE.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ALL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES (& SEE GRAND PHOTOS OF WALES) AT www.stdavidsofmn.org

July 17–23 (tentative dates) – **Cwrs Cymraeg** [Welsh Course], Hamline University, St. Paul.

Sponsored by Cymdeithas Madog [Society of Madog]. Watch for more info on their web page.

Aug. 30–Sept. 2 – **NAFOW** [North American Festival of Wales], Hilton Alexandria Mark Center,

5000 Seminary Rd., Alexandria, VA. reserve your room now!

\$103/night + tax @ nafow.org or call 1-800-445-8667.

Group code: North American Festival of Wales 2018.